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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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CANADA AT THE 31ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

OTTAWA, AUGUST, 1977

This booklet has been prepared to provide the public with a compact reference work which outlines some of the more significant features of the procedure and work of the United Nations and of the Canadian Delegation to the Thirty-First UN General Assembly.

The Canadian Delegation participated actively in the Thirty-First Regular Session of the General Assembly. The following statements reflect those issues which were of major concern to Canada. Statements were also delivered on a number of minor items, but only the highlights of the major interventions are included in this booklet. The full texts of all statements delivered at UNGA XXXI and further information about Canada's role in the UN may be obtained by writing the Public Relations Division, Department of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, Ontario.

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FOREWORD

On October 24 of each year, the world commemorates United Nations Day. In his 1976 message to the Secretary-General, D. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, expressed Canada's best wishes and pledged renewed support for the organization. His words, written just before Canada was elected to the Security Council for the fourth time (1948-49, 58-59, 67-68, 77-78), will serve as a fitting introduction to the following review of Canada's participation at the Thirty-first Session of the UN General Assembly. Mr. Jamieson wrote:

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I wish to convey to you, and all the staff members of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-first anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. I would particularly like to express to you our pleasure at having as Secretary-General someone of your experience, ability and humanity.

In the past year, the United Nations has taken significant steps in the areas of human rights, economic justice and human settlements.

The coming into force this year of the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights is a major step forward for the United Nations. These long-sought agreements on standards and principles of human rights must now be matched by an equal determination to apply them without discrimination. Canada, as a member of the Commission on Human Rights, will spare no effort in working for the full and effective implementation of the Covenants.

The decisions taken at UNCTAD IV mark an important stage in our common efforts to reduce disparities between developed and developing countries. To carry on dialogue in a world divided between wealth and poverty, better understanding and mutual confidence are essential. The outcome of UNCTAD IV augurs well for such dialogue — which is now being continued at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, of which Canada is Co-Chairman. The process of negotiation aimed at narrowing the gap between rich and poor is both permanent and complex. In the pursuit of a more equitable international economic system, Canada is prepared to commit its efforts and its resources.

The United Nations' commitment to improving the quality of life found further expression at the Habitat Conference in Vancouver, of which Canada had the honour of being host. At Habitat, enormous progress was made in improving the understanding of human settlements issues throughout the world. Important recommendations were adopted. Now these must be translated into national and international actions.

This has been a time of adjustment and occasional frustration for the United Nations. During a difficult period, these accomplishments have constituted concrete proof, not only of the validity of the principles embodied in the Charter but also of the progress being made in their implementation.

I can assure you that Canada attaches importance to the work of the United Nations and will continue to be a loyal and constructive member.

PART I

CANADA AT UNGA XXXI

GENERAL DEBATE

The General Assembly of the United Nations is the world's most universal forum, in which virtually all members of the international community, large and small, have an equal opportunity to be heard. The 147 member states take the opportunity given by the Assembly sessions to present their views on the major international issues of the day. In a wide-ranging statement delivered September 29, 1976, the Honourable Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, expressed the views of Canada. The following are the highlights of that speech:

Our membership, with some notable exceptions, is virtually complete, yet there are pressures to define more strictly the obligations of membership.

Efforts to adapt the procedures and structure of the UN to accommodate new policy priorities introduce new tensions in some traditional bodies and activities.

Agreement on standards and principles of human rights is not matched by an equal determination to implement these standards without discrimination.

The Security Council meets more frequently than before, but there is no comparable increase in the number of agreed resolutions.

Acts of piracy and terror, both within and between states, undermine the principles of international law and behaviour on which the UN Charter is based.

The ideal of greater economic and social equality between nations is still far from translation into practice.

And, finally, the choice between anarchy or order on the oceans stands out before us in unmistakable clarity.

Universality

Canada supports the objective of universality of membership. The Charter, it is true, speaks of certain conditions for membership, but my government takes the view that all states which apply for membership ought to be given the benefit of the doubt if such exists. Any question about the degree of independence of such states should be resolved on the basis of the opinion and practice of the majority of member states.

But Canada also believes that a member once admitted to membership should remain a member. We hold that it would be a dangerous precedent to recommend expulsion of a member state on the grounds of violation of the principles of the Charter, unless this is the consensus of the whole membership. To purge this organization of "unpopular" members could lead to the withdrawal of support by others and the paralysis of our activities. That is too high a price for us to pay.

We also hear threats from time to time to suspend the right of Israel to participate in the General Assembly. Canada would oppose such action. To deprive members of their rights in the General Assembly on grounds not justified by the Charter makes a mockery of the Assembly. Our purpose is to debate the issues, not to stifle them.

Institutional Change

One implication of universality of membership must be a willing acceptance of the obligations of membership, especially by those states which play a major role in the organization. A responsible measure of participation in UN activities, especially those voluntary programs which relieve suffering or help to maintain the peace, is a sign of such willingness. As a matter of principle Canada will maintain its full and complete support for all UN organs of which it is a member. We would regret any trend towards the boycotting of UN institutions, or the unilateral reduction of assessed contributions to UN agencies, even though certain of their activities may be regarded by some states as harmful or irregular.

Nevertheless, we believe it is unwise to press resolutions to a vote on issues which deeply divide the membership. Canada regrets for example that the campaign against racial discrimination, on which there is wide consensus, should be associated with Zionism, about which there is profound disagreement. If this link is maintained, my Government will not participate in the conference to be held in 1978 on racial discrimination.

The structure of our organization and the priorities which it follows, from time to time must reflect change in the

world situation and in the membership. The shift over the years towards economic and social priorities is therefore desirable and understandable. We hope that some restructuring of the economic and social sector of the UN will take place as a result. We see merit in proposals to give a more central role to the Economic and Social Council and for arrangements in the Secretariat designed to support this role. It is not too soon to envisage the Economic and Social Council in permanent session, taking up groups of issues in some orderly fashion and giving close attention to the implementation of decisions taken at UN special conferences. The recommendations of the Habitat conference, for example, of which Canada had the honour to act as host, require thorough and expert scrutiny.

We recognize as well that many members believe the Charter reflects better the world of 1945 than the world of today. We agree that useful changes might be made. But here, as in other matters, the best may be the enemy of the good. Canada takes the view that the present balance of power between the General Assembly and the Security Council, which is the central issue of the Charter reform, is preferable to any alternative. The question of the Council's membership may be debatable, but its powers and structure will serve us well. So too does the principle of equal rights in the General Assembly. If the UN is to evolve gradually into a body capable of making decisions which affect the vital interests of all states, it must follow procedures which give confidence to its members that these interests are secure.

Human Rights

The coming into force this year of the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights is a major step forward for the UN. As a member of the Commission on Human Rights, Canada will now direct her efforts principally towards the protection of the rights defined in the Covenants and in the Declaration. One obvious means is to make effective the investigative and appeal mechanisms that are now established. These mechanisms require that states be willing to accept impartial examination of any alleged failures to abide by their commitments. A Court of Human Rights, as proposed by my German colleague, is a step we should consider. None of us have perfect records. To fall short of the aspirations inscribed in the Covenants and the Declaration on Human Rights is not a matter for partisan polemics but for sober assessment.

The obstacles ahead are formidable. Appeals against violations of human rights can be a threat to the legitimacy of some governments and an embarrassment to others. No state is immune to criticism in this regard, although some manage to deflect attention while others become the centre of attraction. Canada will speak out to the best of her knowledge without regard for power or favour. We attach particular importance to the full implementation of the terms of the Declaration on Torture which the General Assembly adopted in 1976.

Peace and Security

Our experience with peacekeeping has been different from our experience with human rights. The concepts and principles of UN peacekeeping have been the subject of strong disagreement, whereas the practice has been modestly successful.

Threats to peace and security vary from year to year but we are rarely able to claim that none exist. This year we have been shocked by the continuing loss of life in the Lebanon. The United Nations has not been able to contribute to peacemaking efforts there but should remain ready to respond if the situation so requires.

My Government agrees that the early independence of both Namibia and Rhodesia on the basis of majority rule and racial harmony is essential to the peace of Africa. It believes as well that South Africa must meet the legitimate political, social and economic demands of the majority of South Africans, supported by the virtually unanimous opinion of this Assembly, if such peace is to endure.

In the Middle East the UN has no choice but to continue the peacekeeping duties authorized by the Security Council. We were encouraged at this time last year by the interim agreement reached between Egypt and Israel on the withdrawal of their forces from Sinai. We look forward to further negotiations which could lead eventually to a peace settlement on the basis of the principles agreed by the Security Council in its Resolution 242, and which would take into account the legitimate concerns and interests of the Palestinian people. Whether negotiations are resumed bilaterally with the help of third party mediation or whether they take place multilaterally in the presence of all the parties directly affected is less important than a joint determination by the states concerned to accept the necessity of establishing and maintaining peaceful relations between them. Pending the achievement of this objective, Canada will continue to contribute to UN peacekeeping operations and will oppose actions or initiatives which

imperil the security and independence of states in the area, or make it more difficult for the UN to help in achieving a settlement.

In Cyprus the United Nations Force still faces a difficult situation. The parties to the dispute are no closer to agreement now than before. The situation on the ground remains tense and dangerous. It is generally agreed that the UN force plays a vital role but the costs of the Force are running \$40 million over the contributions collected. We believe strongly that all member states, in particular the permanent members, should make appropriate contributions to duly authorized UN peacekeeping operations. The fact that only a dozen or so governments have made payments to the UN Special Account for the first six months of this year is not a record of which we can be proud. I can only conclude, Mr. President, that unless the dispute moves toward settlement soon my Government will have to review its position as a troop contributor in Cyprus.

We are concerned as well about continuing acts of terrorism throughout the world and about innocent people who have been threatened or killed.

The General Assembly established a committee four years ago to study both terrorism itself and its underlying causes. The committee came to no conclusions, and the Assembly has not even studied its report. We believe the Assembly should now concentrate on a single aspect of the problem in an effort to achieve concrete results.

I therefore support the proposal of my colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany that priority should be given to action against taking hostages, and that international agreement be reached to ensure the punishment of those who engage in such acts wherever they seek refuge. But we must not forget that conventions against aerial hijacking already exist. If all states were to ratify them we could be more confident that such hijackings would stop.

My predecessor spoke last year of the "totally unsatisfactory rate of progress in achieving disarmament measures" and said that the General Assembly must continue "as a spur to action in the field of disarmament". A year later the record is little better. In the words of our distinguished Secretary-General "the problem of armaments continues to present the most serious threat to a peaceful and orderly future for the world community". We should be ready to explore new avenues, and in this spirit my Government is prepared to consider sympathetically a proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly on disarmament in 1978.

We must not delude ourselves however that the principal obstacles to progress on disarmament will be removed by discussion in this Assembly. These obstacles are the differences of view among states as to the best ways of ensuring their security. Our examination of ways of improving the role of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament will have achieved little unless member countries redouble their efforts to overcome these differences.

At this mid-point in the Disarmament Decade the responsibility to address the real obstacles to progress is shared by all members of this organization. But this responsibility falls most heavily on the nuclear-weapon states and other states of military significance. Progress will be meagre unless we re-examine traditional assumptions, take adequate account of the security concerns of others, and seize all opportunities for concrete action.

Economic and Social Development

All of us acknowledge that the money spent on weapons might be put to better use. Few of us reduce our defence budgets. To do so requires better understanding and mutual confidence. Such understanding and mutual confidence is difficult to achieve in the best of cases and not least in a world divided between wealth and poverty. That is why a common effort to accelerate the process of development and to reduce disparities is in the interest of all states.

Yet, our difficulties should not obscure the fact that we have made significant progress towards agreement on the nature of our agenda and priorities, despite the apparent lack of concrete achievement. If our preparation is thorough, and our approach to it sincere, achievement will be more likely to follow, provided that the requisite political will exists on all sides. It is now my earnest hope that the present phase of the Paris Conference will bear fruit.

The work of the Paris Conference is proceeding in parallel with work in the larger international bodies associated with the UN system. Its participants are aware they must retain a global perspective on the problems before them if non-participants in the Conference are to have confidence in its results, and if these are to influence the actions of governments in the longer term.

The Conference is part of a continuing process of negotiation aimed at narrowing the gap between rich and poor.

The process is complex and it is permanent. Old problems will not disappear quickly and new problems will emerge. In the pursuit of a more equitable international economic system Canada is prepared to commit its efforts and its resources.

Law of the Sea

The fifth session of the Law of the Sea Conference ended here in New York a few weeks ago without agreement, except to meet again for a further session in the spring of next year. Significant progress has been made on many issues but the Conference remains deeply divided on other issues, to a point where a strong sense of impatience and even despair has set in about the seemingly endless nature of these negotiations.

Canada is strongly committed to the objective of the Conference — a new legal order for the oceans based on equity and sound management principles. As a major coastal state Canada is acutely conscious of the inadequacy of the old order, based largely on the concept of freedom of the seas which developed 300 years ago but which has become, with the force of modern technology, licence to foul the shores and ravage the fisheries of the oceans. As a Canadian from an Atlantic province — Newfoundland — which is heavily dependent upon the resources of the sea, I wish to leave this Assembly in no doubt about the strength of Canadian concerns on this matter.

Gravely depleted fisheries resources off our coasts led to a decision by Canada to extend our fisheries jurisdiction out to 200 miles, as of January 1, 1977. This action is being taken within the framework of a system of sound conservation and rational management which we have negotiated on a bilateral and regional level with major fishing states operating off the Canadian coast. This action is also consistent with a growing consensus among nations reflected in the provisions of the Single Negotiating Text that emerged from the Law of the Sea Conference last year and that has been confirmed in this year's revised text. Other states, including our immediate neighbours, have taken or announced similar action.

There are positive features and areas of progress in the work of the conference which, I must add, Mr. Chairman [H. Shirley Amerasinghe (Sri Lanka)], are in significant measure due to your own skilful and tireless efforts as President of the Conference. Although unduly protracted because of differences on a narrowing list of unresolved, hard-core issues, the Conference process has seen the emergence of a growing international consensus on a variety of important matters, in addition to the fisheries provisions I have just mentioned. The concept of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone with important coastal state powers has achieved broad acceptance. There is general recognition of the need for special controls against marine pollution in ice-covered areas such as the Canadian Arctic. The rights of states in respect of the mineral resources of their continental shelves extending out to the continental margin are widely accepted in the Conference, although differences remain on the definition of the margin and on proposals for revenue-sharing in areas beyond 200 miles.

A major remaining obstacle to further progress has been the deadlock on the question of mining the rich resources of the deep seabed, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. On this and other unfinished business we must find internationally agreed solutions to avert a serious risk of conflict, and for the benefit of all mankind. The process may be long and many are weary but we must not flag in the oceans at the moment when, finally, success might be within our grasp.

I have spoken about our hopes and disappointments as members of the United Nations. I conclude with the pledge that Canada will continue to be a loyal and, I trust, constructive member. The United Nations suits Canada. We are a country of many peoples and cultures. We understand the meaning of compromise and consensus. We prize the opportunity to cultivate relations with near and distant friends. We remain committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa

The Canadian Government firmly believes that the time remaining to effect peaceful change in South Africa is growing shorter and that individual and collective efforts must be intensified to resolve the central issues before armed struggle and violence become the principal instruments of change.

The Canadian position on this question was elaborated in the following statement delivered by the Honourable Robert Stanbury, P.C., M.P., on November 1, 1976 in plenary:

During the past year we have witnessed momentous developments in Southern Africa. As never before, the attention of the international community has been focused on the course of events in this region as, one after another, its various problems have dominated the international scene. Most recently, Rhodesia (the future Zimbabwe) and Namibia have preoccupied us and some important steps have been taken towards the resolution of these problems. But the subject which we are discussing today is perhaps the most difficult and intractable of those which afflict Southern Africa, and a measure of its fundamental importance is that this year we should be discussing the issue in this plenary forum rather than, as has been customary, in the Special Political Committee.

Even at this stage some question the attention devoted by the United Nations to efforts to bring about change in South Africa. Why, they ask, among all the abuses of human rights in the world, why, do we here fasten so firmly on *apartheid*? The reasons merit repetition.

The United Nations must indeed develop and put into operation effective mechanisms for the protection of human rights everywhere. It must be the advocate of minority groups whenever they are denied equal rights, and of individuals in any country which as a general policy denies to its people basic human rights. But the United Nations is so intensely preoccupied with the situation in South Africa because the institutionalized policies of racial discrimination in South Africa have troubled the international community since the formation of the United Nations in 1945. From its earliest sessions the General Assembly has found cause to appeal to the Government of South Africa to comply with the spirit and provisions of the UN Charter by guaranteeing to all its citizens an equitable share in the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of their country's life. The Government of South Africa has remained deaf to these pleas; instead it has continued to develop and extend year by year *apartheid* legislation in a direction which denies, by law, to four out of five South Africans any opportunity of realizing their inherent human rights.

A complex web of legislation constrains the daily life of 18 million non-white South Africans. It denies to them the right to live in the cities in which they work; it denies to them the right to gain full title to their homes and businesses in the sub-standard African cities in which they are obliged to live. It obliges African workers to commute long distances each day to their place of employment. It relegates tens of thousands of South African contract labourers to life in all-male barracks — separated for 51 weeks of the year from their wives and families; it prohibits them from bringing their families to the areas in which they work, areas in which their labour is essential to the South African economy. The laws of the land deny to them the opportunity to advance, in accordance with their capabilities, to jobs of greater interest and responsibility — those are reserved for the minority. Similarly, the laws establish wages for the African majority at levels which are tremendously lower than those for whites who are doing essentially the same work. This is *apartheid*.

In the last several months the victims of this demeaning and iniquitous system have risen up and confronted the Government of South Africa, and the world, with the appalling circumstances they have been required to endure for so long. On the last occasion when the reality of South Africa was put so forcefully to us, following the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, the international community responded with one voice in efforts to impress upon the South African Government the need to abandon its *apartheid* policies. It is our task during this session of the General Assembly to re-examine the situation in the light of the recent events in South Africa, and to decide what further steps should be taken to foster rapid and fundamental change for the oppressed majority there by peaceful means as long as that possibility exists.

Last year, my Government, through its representative on the Special Political Committee, presented a full exposition of its views on the *apartheid* policies and practices of the South African Government, and set forth in detail its own policies in response to the unacceptable panoply of regulations, practices and attitudes prevailing in that country. We

emphasized our firm belief in the inevitability of self-determination for those people who comprise the majority of South Africans, and in the need for all reasonable means to be taken to advance the development of this process.

Events in South Africa since then, and particularly in the last several months, have dramatically underlined the fact that the time available for achieving peaceful change in the situation is rapidly running out. It is clear to my Government that the continuing disturbances in Soweto and elsewhere in South Africa are not the results of outside instigation, as the Government of South Africa contends, but reflect the profound discontent and frustration of the majority of South Africans. The causes of this state of affairs and the need to bring about fundamental changes are self-evident. There are some signs that this truth may now be recognized by an increasing number of people within the white minority itself.

However, the Government of South Africa continues to be blind to reality. In October 1974, in the Security Council, the South African representative announced his Government's intention to do away with any discrimination based on race. Instead of taking steps to eliminate progressively its racially discriminatory laws and practices (as some observers had hoped it would last year), that Government instead last spring deemed it necessary to introduce even more restrictive legislation to counteract dissent. Seemingly oblivious to the continuing deterioration of its domestic as well as international position it has obstinately proceeded with its policy of "Bantustanization".

The most dismayingly indication of the extent of the Government of South Africa's inability to understand the forces in motion in South Africa today is its handling of the disturbances which began last June and which have continued almost without break. It is difficult for us to comprehend the severity of the measures it has taken against its own people. My Government was appalled by the violence that led to the deaths of over 170 persons (including many children) in three days. My Government can far more easily understand the frustrations and discontent which underlay this expression of massive dissent than it can ever hope to understand the cruel and insensitive reaction of the South African Government, which quite properly earned the condemnation of the United Nations Security Council and the international community. Canada considered it necessary to inform the South African Government directly of its shock at the severity of that Government's reprisals and of Canada's conviction that such developments were clearly the result of the repressive *apartheid* policies.

Since June, the situation has deteriorated even further. Discontent has been manifested in more violent, more frequent and more widespread demonstrations. Over 300 protesters have been killed and many hundreds more have been wounded by the agents of that Government. Paralleling this misuse of the civil power, that Government also has utilized massive political repression by arresting thousands of "potential" dissenters, some on very flimsy grounds indeed. The South African Government has even found it necessary to arrest several newspapermen both black and white, whose "crime", it would appear, was to report the reality of the troubled South African racial situation.

It is clear that the recent course of events in South Africa has ominous implications for the prospects of peace in that country. For those of us still anxious to encourage peaceful change in South Africa, there yet remains some hope that the situation may not degenerate progressively into outright civil war. Increasingly, reports from that unhappy country indicate that important elements of the ruling minority are profoundly in disagreement with their Government's policies and are calling for improvement. Despite the heavy cost in lives, the African majority is courageously refusing to submit any longer. Even those of their spokesmen to whom that Government consents to listen, the "Bantustan" leaders, have clearly expressed their total rejection of the government's policies. The growing weight of international censure is increasingly being felt.

We recognize that our hope for peaceful solutions is a tenuous one. It is quite simply founded upon the belief that the present Government of South Africa and its supporters cannot, in their own long-term interests, continue to be blind to the need to face reality. Nevertheless, we are not encouraged by statements such as that delivered by Prime Minister Vorster on October 13, 1976, rejecting calls for changes. We must intensify our pressures on the South African Government to head the cries for justice within and without its borders.

We have heard during the past few weeks appeals for the true friends of Africa, and of the majority people of Southern Africa, to stand up and be counted. Canadians count themselves among the true friends of Africa.

We show our friendship and concern for Southern Africa in a very tangible way. Canada is one of the most important supporters of, and contributors to, United Nations and other multilateral funds which have been established to assist the African peoples of Southern Africa. Our contribution to these funds in the present year amount to more than \$800,000. Our bilateral programs of development assistance to the countries of Southern Africa, namely Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, are now in the order of \$54,000,000

each year and they continue to grow. In addition, Canada is one of the five or six major contributors to all United Nations, Commonwealth and other multilateral programs which also assist the independent countries of Southern Africa. We engage in this development co-operation in order to contribute to the development of these countries and to assist in their task of building societies with social and economic justice for all their citizens. These societies will stand as an affront to the racist theories of minority regimes which suggest that stability, justice and civilization will be undermined should the majority African peoples of their countries be permitted a full and equal voice in the government of those countries.

Canada has also shown its support for efforts to bring about change in Southern Africa by voluntarily placing, in 1963, an embargo on the sale of military equipment to the Government of South Africa, and by extending this embargo to the export of spare parts for such equipment in 1970, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We also support the sports boycott of South Africa as a further mechanism to encourage change. My Government refuses any moral or financial support to Canadian individuals or teams which decided to compete in South Africa and to any sporting event held in Canada in which South African teams participate. We support the boycott because sport in South Africa, by law, is organized on a racial basis contrary to the Olympic principle. Equally important, we support the boycott as a means to bring the international rejection of the *apartheid* system to the attention of individual white South Africans.

The South African Government seeks to counter these pressures by making superficial changes to give the appearance of integration in sports, in the hope that sporting organizations will come to believe that fundamental change is taking place. An example of the confusion which can be generated was the Olympiad for the Physically Disabled which was held in Toronto, Canada, this summer. For this occasion, the South African Government gave specific permission for the sending of an integrated team to Toronto in the obvious hope that South African participation would thus be acceptable to Canada and the international community. It was clear to my Government, however, that this unique exception to that Government's general policy was only a further refinement of that Government's cosmetic and highly selective approach to effecting changes in its sports policy, and that this isolated example was in no way indicative of any fundamental change in that policy. My Government urged the organizers of the Disabled Games to understand the importance of the international sporting boycott of South Africa and to recognize that the boycott's goal was not to have the occasional multi-coloured team from South Africa show up for such events, but to obtain those fundamental changes that Canada and the international community consider so necessary. Regrettably, the Olympiad organizers did not agree with my Government's position and persisted in permitting this team to participate. Hence, my Government reluctantly decided that it was obliged to withdraw its support for the Disabled Games and, instead, directed these funds into sports programs for the physically disabled people of Canada. It is noteworthy that, in the event, many delegations to the Disabled Games felt obliged to withdraw from those Games when it was clear that a South African team was to be permitted to participate.

Since that time, the South African Government has made further concessions in this area of its *apartheid* policies. However, it is very obvious that these concessions are much like those of the past, largely cosmetic and still far from adequate. Anyone with any doubts about this has only to look to the arrest this month of eight white South African sportsmen who dared to defy their Government's segregationist sports policies by playing on the same team with black sportsmen.

At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly the Canadian Government co-sponsored the resolution relating to the sporting boycott of South Africa. It would hope to be able to continue to support United Nations initiatives on this subject. We have taken note of the suggestion that the Special Committee against *Apartheid* explore the possibility of the development of a convention against sporting contacts with South Africa. We would recommend that any working group appointed by that Committee explore all options, including that of a declaration which might be designed to draw the widest possible support while not entailing the delays, complexities and pitfalls of an international legal instrument.

In the same spirit the Canadian Government has made clear its firm rejection of the Bantustan policy of the Government of South Africa. We cannot accept a system which allocates to 80 per cent of the population of South Africa rights in only 13 per cent of that territory, and which spuriously represents this as "self-determination". For this reason, my Government does not recognize the independence of the Transkei. To do so would legitimize the perverse policy of *apartheid* and separate development. My Government adheres to the position that all South Africans have the right to share equally in the political, social and economic development of their country.

My Government has noted that the leaders of nearly all of the other "Bantustans" in South Africa have also rejected

the independence of the Transkei. We welcome this action as we welcome their further rejection of the whole concept of *apartheid*. In the face of such complete opposition, we believe that the South African Government will have no other choice but to recognize that its policy of "separate development" is bankrupt.

The Canadian Government has urged the minority in South Africa and their Government to accept the fact that fundamental change in South Africa is inevitable and that the time period in which such change can be brought about by peaceful means is very restricted. The events of the past year demonstrate visibly that the time remaining for effective peaceful change is growing shorter day by day. We believe that our individual and collective efforts must be intensified and harmonized; we believe that no opportunity should be missed to expose the Government of South Africa and its electorate to unanimous and relentless international pressures which demand action and change. Change is bound to come. South Africans of all races must face up to that fact and develop a new relationship. If conditions of chronic turbulence which risk deterioration into civil war, with its attendant toll of human tragedy are to be avoided, change must take place, not ten years hence, not five years hence, but now.

Question of Namibia

Canada intervened in the Fourth Committee debate on the question of Namibia to express its deep regret at the lack of progress towards bringing to an end the illegal South African presence in this territory, a feeling that was shared by the 78 speakers who took part. The Canadian statement was delivered on November 24, 1976 by Ambassador Jacques Gignac, Canadian representative in the Fourth Committee:

It is with deep regret that the Canadian delegation has noted that the situation in Namibia has evolved little in substantive terms since our last debate on this question. It has been ten years since the General Assembly terminated the South African mandate over Namibia; it has been five years since the International Court of Justice, in its important advisory opinion, concluded that the continued presence of South Africa in Namibia was illegal and that the South African Government was indeed obligated to withdraw its administration from Namibia immediately, thus putting to an end its occupation of the territory. That opinion also affirmed the obligation of all member states of the United Nations to recognize the illegality of the South African presence in Namibia and to refrain from any acts implying recognition of the legality of, or lending support to, the administration of that territory by the Republic of South Africa.

Thirteen resolutions of the United Nations Security Council adopted between 1960 and the present time have required South Africa to put an end to the extension to Namibia of the odious institutionalized practices of racial discrimination of *apartheid*, and to cease carving up that international territory into so-called homelands or Bantustans. Those resolutions have demanded that South Africa comply with the provisions of the International Declaration of Human Rights; that it abolish politically repressive laws and practices; that it release political prisoners; and that it facilitate the return to their country of Namibians in exile without risk of arrest, detention, intimidation or imprisonment. The Security Council has deplored the militarization of Namibia and its use as a base for attacks on neighbouring countries. Most importantly, it has enjoined South Africa to withdraw its illegal administration from Namibia. In its most recent resolution on the subject, No. 385, adopted unanimously on January 30, 1976, the Security Council declared itself in support of a reasonable and pragmatic means of enabling the people of Namibia to determine their own future, and, we would comment, to facilitate the early transition to independence — namely, free elections in Namibia under United Nations supervision and control.

Canada entirely supported the termination of South Africa's mandate over Namibia and we continue to insist, as we did then, that the population of Namibia must be accorded at the earliest possible time the right of self-determination and independence, recognizing the territorial integrity and unity of Namibia as a nation. Following the issuance of the International Court of Justice's opinion, the Canadian Government advised the Government of South Africa that Canada did not recognize any authority of the Republic of South Africa over Namibia. My Government has taken a number of measures to ensure that no recognition is given by it to the illegal administration of Namibia. Canada maintains no diplomatic, consular or commercial representation in Namibia. Canadian companies which propose to invest there, and Canadian citizens who plan to travel there, are informed that they do so at their own risk. Canadians who are travelling on official business and, therefore, on diplomatic or official passports, are prohibited from travelling to Namibia. It is well known, in addition, that the Canadian Government has effectively prohibited the sale of arms to South Africa — thus doing what it can to avoid assisting that country in maintaining its military hold on Namibia.

Canada views with deepening concern the course of developments in Namibia. This concern derives from the continuing lack of success in bringing about a rapid and peaceful solution of the present illegal situation. We support

the actions taken by the United Nations Security Council to promote a peaceful solution, and in particular the most recent resolutions unanimously adopted by the Security Council of December 13, 1974, (366) and January 30, 1976, (385). We urge the Government of South Africa to accept that a solution must be found in the context of the terms laid down in these resolutions. This stand is consistent with our support for, and encouragement of, the eminent role of the United Nations in world affairs generally and its function as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

With respect to the constitutional discussions being held in Windhoek, we note they are being conducted by representatives of various ethnic groups in Namibia. There has been no provision to permit the participation of all concerned Namibian political elements, notably many Africans who are better educated and more conscious politically and who have organized in such bodies as SWAPO, for which we consider there is substantial evidence of popular support. Bearing these factors in mind, and as well the fact that the discussions are being held without reference to the United Nations' actions, the Canadian Government considers that these discussions cannot be representative of all Namibian interests and cannot adequately provide for the constitutional development of an independent and united Namibia through the fully democratic process required by the UN Security Council. We believe that the Turnhalle discussions will ultimately fail to achieve the objective of an internationally acceptable and truly independent and united Namibia.

My Government has watched with increasing concern the growing number of incidents of violence aimed at the South African presence in Namibia. These outbreaks are undoubtedly the end result of South Africa's continued presence and actions in Namibia and are ominous indicators that the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the Namibian issue are becoming increasingly remote. The deterioration in the situation is exemplified by the sentences handed down by the South West Africa Division of the Spring Court of South Africa on four Namibians at Swakopmund in April/May 1976. In our view they were invalid in law, in view of the illegality of the continued South African presence in Namibia. We believe that the sentences can only have a negative effect on the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the Namibian issue and have urged that the sentences not be carried out.

The Canadian Government brought these views to the attention of the South African Government in a *démarche* made in Pretoria on August 9, 1976. We appealed to that Government to reach an accommodation in the shortest possible time with the United Nations on the future of Namibia and indicated that if this accommodation should prove to be unattainable the situation might deteriorate into one which could be justly considered to constitute a threat to international peace and security.

The response which we received to this *démarche* was disappointing. It showed that the insufficient positions which have been revealed to us by the Government of South Africa each time the subject of Namibia has been discussed in the Security Council remain in essence unchanged. Nonetheless, there have been some developments in Southern Africa in recent months which have raised the level of activity at the political and diplomatic level both in regard to Rhodesia and in regard to Namibia. In the first case, while the results are still difficult to predict, we do have in progress a conference whose mandate it is to arrange the transfer of power to the majority by the end of 1978 at the latest. In the case of Namibia, parallel efforts have been undertaken by the American Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, to seek a resolution of the question. The efforts have not yet, it appears, evoked a satisfactory response from the South African regime. It is our belief, however, that the situation of Namibia is not one which need remain impervious to efforts towards settlement. If the declarations of the "interested and concerned parties" are taken at full face value and indeed if the international community holds them to declarations which meet with or begin to approach Security Council stipulations, it should not prove impossible through determined diplomacy to bridge the gap and to bring about the objective of fully democratic elections under United Nations supervision.

In the meantime, the United Nations should continue to pursue its collective efforts in favour of Namibian independence and to support in particular those programs designed to prepare Namibians to cope with the challenges of independence. Of particular importance in this sense, we believe, are the UN Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) and the Institute for Namibia. On an earlier occasion we have drawn attention to our support for UNETPSA. The declared objectives of the Institute for Namibia militate greatly in favour of a Canadian decision to assist in its financing — namely, the training of young Namibians, preferably by Namibians, in areas which would equip them to contribute to the future of their country. During the difficult period which will follow independence, Namibians with administrative and civil service training will demonstrate the value of the Institute's programs. Thus, even before the budget of the Institute had been finalized, the Canadian representative in this Committee announced, on October 23 of last year, the intention of the Canadian Government to contribute \$100,000 for the establishment of the Institute for Namibia in Lusaka. That contribution was delivered to the Secretary General two weeks later. The Canadian decision was facilitated by the constructive role played by the Commissioner for Namibia in the conversations concerning the role and planning for the Institute which took place during his visit to Ottawa in Spring 1975.

When announcing the Canadian contribution my Government indicated the hope that other countries would also be able to make contributions to the Institute for its establishment and initial operations. In March of this year, at the time of the pledging conference for all programs for Southern Africa, the Canadian government indicated that a further Canadian contribution to the Institute for Namibia would be subject to assessments of the operations and programs of the Institute, its overall budget, the future of its financial resources, and its ability to secure a broad base of support.

Unfortunately, our efforts since March to obtain details of the Institute's budget and operations have met with little success and we have, therefore, been unable, so far, to commit further funds to it. Other actual or potential donors have experienced similar problems. We understand that the budget had to be considered by the Director of the Institute, by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Fund for Namibia and by the Council for Namibia in turn, a detailed process which is no doubt justified. We trust, however, that the budget-review process can be speeded up, possibly through the development of a clearer understanding as to the role of the Senate in relation to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and vice versa. In the absence of an authoritative document on programs and financing it is not surprising that voluntary contributions earmarked for the Institute in 1976 have not reached the original target levels. Nonetheless, the Institute is now in operation and is performing creditably. We expect that its budget estimates and supporting documents concerning program development will be revised in a pragmatic form to show its progressive development from year to year. We hope that, as in the case of the Trust Fund for South Africa and UNETPSA, there will continue to exist an Ad Hoc Committee for the Fund to Namibia of seven or eight diplomats who will maintain a keen interest in the Institute's development.

In respect to the organization of UN activities relative to Namibia, we have noted that within the Secretariat there are many competent officials working to forward the cause of Namibia. Unfortunately they appear sometimes to be working in parallel and it is time, we believe, for the Secretary-General to effect better co-ordination between, or perhaps amalgamation of, all sections dealing with Namibia. In this fashion the effectiveness of our joint efforts might be maximized.

We note that the present Commissioner for Namibia, Mr. Sean MacBride, does not plan to seek a further term of office. We wish, therefore, before concluding, to express our warmest appreciation to Mr. MacBride for his personal commitment to the cause of Namibia and for the time and energy he has devoted to this important position. He is a political person and his term of office has seen its controversial moments. But he has brought to this job a prestige and experience in the field of human rights that have attracted illustrious personalities in all corners of the world to concentrate attention on the human, international legal, and political problems presented by the situation in Namibia. We feel certain that his devotion to the cause of a united and independent Namibia will continue even as he returns to his home, family and friends in Ireland.

Question of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

This matter has been debated in the General Assembly since 1962. Over 11 years have elapsed since the illegal unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) from Britain, and eight since the Security Council imposed mandatory economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

Initiatives by the then United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger culminated in the convening of the Geneva Conference in October of 1976. This, together with the September 24, 1976, announcement by Mr. Smith that his Government was committed to majority rule within two years, gave rise to a degree of optimism that the transition could be achieved through negotiation at Geneva. The purpose of the conference, chaired by Britain and including Prime Minister Ian Smith and nationalist leaders, was to set a date for majority rule and to decide on the structure of a transitional government. During the UN debate, with the possibility of a peacefully-negotiated settlement then in view, delegations were anxious to avoid any initiative which might jeopardize those discussions. The debate accordingly assumed a considerably milder tone than in the past.

The Canadian statement was delivered on December 8, 1976, by Mr. Jacques Gignac:

We have come once again to consider the question of Rhodesia. The Canadian representative in this Committee made an extensive intervention on this subject last year. At that time the outlook for meaningful negotiations looked bleak and unpromising. Nevertheless, the Geneva Conference has begun. While we are not yet in a position to applaud a successful outcome at Geneva we can take satisfaction that the parties concerned are at least still talking and we can give all encouragement to their efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to this thorny and perplexing problem.

Largely as a result of the efforts of the American Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, the Smith regime announced on September 24 its acceptance of the joint Anglo-American proposals for a settlement of the Rhodesian crisis. All the principals representing the various interests in Rhodesia, including a delegation from the illegal regime, are at this moment assembled in Geneva. The conference, it is true, has already been adjourned a number of times and in addition it remains to be demonstrated that the illegal regime is really prepared to negotiate meaningfully and to make the necessary concessions. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful and cautiously optimistic that it will continue, and that the necessary compromises will in the end be made to ensure a successful outcome which can be the basis for a peaceful settlement.

In this regard we urge the nationalist delegations to maintain a united front, putting aside personal, factional, political and ideological differences with the common objective of establishing an interim government leading to majority rule. The alternative would be to admit failure and would result in the escalation of the use of force, with its encumbent destruction and suffering for all concerned. Canada has for its part consistently opposed recourse to the use of force while any possibility for a peaceful solution remains. We deeply regret therefore the continuance of violence and repression, whether in Rhodesia or in neighbouring countries, during the conference and the transitional period leading to Zimbabwe independence.

Canada has no very direct involvement in Rhodesia. We are nonetheless following the Geneva discussions closely and are prepared to give careful consideration to any request for assistance which the parties involved may agree to put to us.

The mandatory economic sanctions against Rhodesia imposed by the Security Council remain an important economic and psychological tool of the international community to bring pressure on the illegal regime to negotiate an acceptable settlement. Canada has scrupulously observed the Sanctions Regulations adopted pursuant to Security Council resolutions. We intend to continue to enforce those regulations until such time as the mandatory sanctions may be revoked by the Security Council. We can do no less.

In concluding I should like to express the hope that the Canadian delegation will be able to join in supporting a consensus resolution at the end of this debate which will reiterate our unanimous demand for independence and majority rule for Zimbabwe and which will urge and encourage all participants in the Geneva conference to deploy their talents and resources to the utmost to achieve that end.

United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa (UNETPSA)

UNETPSA has been in existence since 1968 and provides students from Southern African countries with fellowships to study – mainly at the university level – primarily in African, but also in European, North American and Indian, educational institutions. Voluntary contributions to the program are in the form of either financial contributions or school facilities. Canada has been a major contributor in both areas since the program began.

The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Mr. William H. Barton, in his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of UNETPSA, introduced Resolution 31/31 on UNETPSA on November 12, 1976:

The United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa (UNETPSA, as it is generally known) has since 1968 provided educational and training awards for young people living under colonial or minority regimes in Southern Africa. The participants in the program have included students from Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa, and also from the newly-independent countries of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. Contributions to the program from member states have totalled \$9,700,000. More than 1,400 young people have completed their education with the support of this United Nations program, and during the 11-month period from November 1975 to September 1976 scholarship holders numbered 1,222.

It will be recalled that the Advisory Committee of the program, of which I have recently been given the honour of being elected Chairman, appointed an Expert Group to carry out an evaluation of the program during the spring of 1975. The Advisory Committee, having considered the report of the Evaluation Group, agreed on a number of conclusions, the most essential of which was that the program has been a significant and worthwhile humanitarian effort by the international community and that an extension of the program was desirable at this stage to meet the increased needs arising from recent developments in the territories concerned. The General Assembly in its Resolution 3422 (XXX) endorsed that conclusion and a number of recommendations relating to the further development of the program and strengthening of its administration. During the past year, these recommendations have been put increasingly into effect, entailing essentially the transfer of administrative responsibilities, to the extent possible, to the

local offices of the UNDP in countries where there are a substantial number of students studying under the program. This has the effect of reducing the time required to respond to a given inquiry. For example, the responsibility for the renewal of scholarships (where the renewal is for the course for which the award was granted, and where the student has satisfactorily completed his year of study) has been transferred to these local offices. Also, the selection of new candidates has been facilitated by more on-the-spot interviews by these offices. In addition, while taking into account the individual interests and aspirations of students, greater priority has been accorded to the manpower needs of the countries concerned as they become independent or achieve majority rule. In this connection the local UNDP offices have been encouraged to assist fellowship-holders in their efforts to obtain employment and to maintain contact with them after graduation.

In examining the report of the Secretary-General, member states will note that the program was able in the period 1975/76 to make only 126 new awards, as opposed to 634 in the previous year. The Advisory Board considers this a matter which should be of great concern to members, as it concerns the future development of the program. While a small percentage of this decline can be attributed to the exceptional awards made late in the previous year, as detailed in Paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report, the key factor resides in the tremendously increased costs of the program. For example, in 1973/74 the average cost per fellowship amounted to \$1,300. The average cost per fellowship in 1975/76 rose to \$1,750 and the estimate for 1976/77, based on our present experience, is \$2,000. Inflation, of course, is a major factor in the increase in educational and training costs. Equally significant is the fact that the program is no longer able to make a significant proportion of awards in countries, such as Zaire, where the cost of study was heavily subsidized by the government concerned. As the program increasingly bears the real cost of awards, the average cost can be expected to continue to rise markedly.

Member states will recall that at the twenty-ninth session in 1974, following the independence of Guinea Bissau and anticipating the independence of the other countries under Portuguese administration in Africa, the General Assembly decided to continue — as a transitional measure — assistance to students of those countries. My predecessor suggested at that time that the resolution's provisions might entail continued assistance to those students already studying under the program to the conclusion of their studies and new awards to students of those territories, for a period, to permit the coming into effect of bilateral and multilateral technical-assistance programs. It has transpired, in fact, that the transitional period for new awards to these students has been approximately one year after independence. The Advisory Committee recommended in March 1976 that the program should accord priority to individuals from those three countries which had not yet achieved independence or majority rule — that is, South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. Subsequently, the tremendous financial strain on the program required that the small number of new awards be devoted exclusively to applicants from those three groups.

The program is at present receiving voluntary contributions in the order of \$1.6 million a year. Thus, when we consider prospects for 1976/77, it becomes evident that the total number of fellowship-holders will in the next reporting period decrease very substantially if additional voluntary contributions are not received. I do not wish to suggest that it is possible to establish precisely what the optimum level of the program in a given year should be. What is evident is that the situation existing in Southern Africa at the present time puts tremendous and valid demands on us to which we should find a means of responding. This year, several hundred well-qualified students had to be refused. They were invited to reapply next year, when, it is hoped, more awards would be available.

I am pleased to introduce on behalf of 39 member states the resolution which is traditionally adopted on this item. In doing so I would underline our thanks for the generosity of those member states which have made contributions to the program, in terms of cash contributions, or in terms of places offered in their national universities. I would also wish to extend our appreciation to the governments of countries in Africa and elsewhere which are acting as hosts to these young people. Their support for the program and their attention to the needs of the students is of immeasurable worth. I wish to underline our thanks to the devoted personnel of the United Nations Secretariat here in New York and as well to those of the UNDP local offices and of others in Europe and elsewhere, whose service has greatly enhanced the program's effectiveness.

The resolution before us differs little in substance from those adopted in recent years, there is, however, one substantive difference. In accordance with the decision of the Advisory Committee taken in September 1975, and drawn to your attention by my predecessor at this time last year, the resolution no longer seeks a transitional allocation from the United Nations budget. This decision was based on the belief that the program has matured through the development of a significant level of voluntary contributions, and that future fund raising efforts would benefit from the fully voluntary funding mechanism originally envisaged. Indeed a number of countries which made generous increases in their contributions last year kept this factor, as well as greatly-increased costs, in mind when presenting their requests to their respective treasuries. We appeal to those governments now considering the future level of their contributions in relation to levels established two or three years ago to bear this factor in mind.

In conclusion, I wish to commend to the member states this resolution, which we hope will be adopted by consensus as in previous years. I wish also to urge their continuing support for this useful and productive program.

MIDDLE EAST

The Situation in the Middle East

Canada's desire to assist in finding a just solution to the conflict in the Middle East, based on the framework for negotiations set out in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, together with our dual recognition of Israel's right to an independent existence and of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, has been amply illustrated by our contribution to peacekeeping efforts in the area. The following speech, delivered in plenary on December 6, 1976, by Mr. Robert Stanbury, is a concise statement of the Canadian position with respect to the points to be negotiated in an eventual overall settlement of the problem:

Canada's desire for a Middle East peace settlement is real and steadfast. It has led us to make and to continue our peacekeeping contribution there. Beyond the short term such a contribution can be fully justified only if it helps to provide the time and regional stability for negotiation of a settlement. A year or two ago, it was possible to perceive a link between Middle East peacekeeping and progress in the process of peace negotiations put in train by the mediation efforts of the United States. Since then, unfortunately, that process has lain moribund. Now, with renewed hopes for Lebanon and therefore for the entire region, the time seems opportune for the reactivation of comprehensive negotiations towards a final settlement.

In the view of the Canadian Government, it is of the utmost urgency that a new start be made. There exists now agreement on the framework for negotiations. First, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 have obtained general agreement. Secondly, all parties have agreed that the Palestinians should be heard and participate in any discussion affecting their future. What then are the remaining obstacles? We know that they are procedural in form.

It would, of course, be naive to deny that the existing procedural difficulties cloak deeply-felt aspirations and apprehensions. But this fact simply confirms the necessity for particular efforts by the key parties to clear away procedural obstacles and permit negotiations to be resumed. We all know that the most important obstacles are at the present time: the difficulty of arranging for the effective representation of the Palestinian people in discussions and negotiations that will play a central role in determining their future, on the one hand; on the other, the need for unequivocal acceptance by all parties of the existence of the state of Israel as a sovereign and independent state in the Middle East.

The task of overcoming these obstacles ought not to be beyond human ingenuity. It will require imagination, flexibility, determination. It will demand the wisdom, on the part of all concerned, to refrain from making it impossible to begin constructive negotiations by insisting on procedural considerations that would tend to predetermine their conclusions.

For negotiations to be successful they must begin, and they must begin with clear indications from both sides of the will to make necessary concessions. To save, as "bargaining points" for use at a later stage, concessions that both sides know to be inevitable can only make it impossible for the bargaining ever to get started. There is no basis for serious negotiations without a clear understanding of two points: the reality of Israel as an independent state consistent with Security Council Resolution 242 and the need for the Palestinian people to participate in the process of developing an appropriate structure for their political self-expression, within a suitable territorial framework.

Except for Palestinian participation, Security Council Resolution 242 provides all the necessary elements of a basis for negotiations. Israel must withdraw from territories occupied in 1967, but only as part of a process that establishes secure and recognized borders for all states in the region and that provides effective recognition for the right of all these states, including Israel, to live in peace. Resolution 242 was a landmark of general agreement on the essential framework for a just and lasting peace. It should be neither tampered with nor distorted. It should be used as the basis for moving ahead towards a negotiated solution.

The Geneva Conference, while not the only conceivable forum for negotiations, is the only one in being. Rather than try to reconstruct it, we urge the parties to make use of it with all the urgency that the situation demands.

Let the parties and the international community, therefore, do what is necessary in order to permit the launching of the negotiating process and to seize now an opportunity which, if it is not grasped, will surely pass, just as surely to be followed by the outbreak of renewed hostilities and destruction which it is our common responsibility to prevent.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established in 1949 to assist those refugees who were displaced as a result of the Arab/Israeli conflict in 1948. Since that time Canada has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Agency. As a major contributor to UNRWA, Canada is particularly interested in ensuring that the Agency remains a viable institution. During 1976 UNRWA faced severe financial problems and many countries, Canada among them, made supplementary donations. On November 26, 1976, Canada announced its 1977 cash contribution to the Agency, which amounted to \$1.5 million. In addition, it is expected that Canada's contribution in flour aid will equal or surpass the 1976 gift of some \$2 million.

In his November 3, 1976, statement to the Special Political Committee, Mr. Robert Stanbury paid tribute to the accomplishments of the Agency and outlined Canada's views on UNRWA as well as the general problem of the Palestinian refugees:

War wreaks human havoc, wherever it occurs, in whatever cause. Few victims of war, however, have suffered so long and so much as have the Palestinian refugees who are served by UNRWA. For 27 years now this Agency has provided food, shelter, welfare, health and education services to families whose lives have been disrupted, some repeatedly, by the failure of men to settle disputes peacefully. There are now more than one and a half million registered refugees, some 70 per cent more today than when the Agency was established in 1949. Hundreds of thousands, tragically, are living out their lives in camps, many dying there and many more long born there, in conditions which none of us would choose for our own people and which UNRWA cannot transform. But UNRWA has helped to alleviate the intolerable.

UNRWA is a tangible expression of global concern for these families trapped in a state of chronic despair. We pray that reason and goodwill may soon free them from their fate, but in the meantime they cannot be ignored by any peoples who feel a bond of brotherhood with all their fellow-men.

As a practical vehicle for the concern of the international community, UNRWA has long had the support of many countries. Others have come to its aid recently. Some have not shared in its cause. It is clear that more must be expected from us all if the need is to be met — more from those who have contributed in the past and more countries contributing. There should be no political boundaries to our humanitarian commitment, and concern is of no practical effect without action. Therefore, we appeal to all nations to join in this humanitarian cause and to demonstrate in practice the brotherhood which we all claim.

Since UNRWA was established Canada has consistently supported its work through financial contributions and food aid. Canadian non-governmental organizations have also made significant donations to the Agency. My Government pledges to continue and increase its support.

That we are again discussing the problem of the Palestinians as refugees and of UNRWA and its necessary humanitarian tasks is a reflection of our failure over the past 27 years to undertake those "constructive measures...with a view to the termination of international assistance for relief" called for in the resolution of this Assembly establishing UNRWA in the first place. The failure is a political one because the root of the problem is a political one.

It is recognized by everyone that a crucial aspect of the Middle East problem, and an essential element that any solution must have if it is to endure, is the finding by the Palestinian people of a means for self-expression — including political self-expression — consistent with the principle of self-determination. It is surely also clear that the Palestinian people must participate in the process of developing an appropriate structure for such self-expression. If this process is ever to begin, moreover, the parties concerned must be prepared to abandon extreme positions and to examine all reasonable solutions that imagination and goodwill can devise to this most dangerous and potentially explosive issue in the Middle East conflict.

At the same time, we cannot help but be concerned at efforts to predetermine the nature of a solution, whether in the form of demographic changes, or by insistence, as the precondition of any negotiations, that only one form of political self-expression could be acceptable. Whatever the solution, it must, on the one hand, recognize the existence and legitimacy of the state of Israel and permit all states in the area to live in security, and, on the other, provide a territorial foundation for the political self-expression of the Palestinian people that can open the way for the winding up of this Agency which has received and deserved our support for so long.

Our major concern during this debate, however, is to assure that the basic needs of the Palestinians can be met by the international community through the essential services which UNRWA provides. This demands assurance of an

adequate timely supply of financial resources, an assurance sadly lacking until now. For too long UNRWA has had to operate on a hand-to-mouth basis. Canada places high priority on ending UNRWA's recurring financial crises and giving it a secure financial base. We note with appreciation the recent generous donations made by several Arab countries despite their well-known reservations. We sincerely hope that this support will continue and that other members will follow their example, without reduction in the support given by the Agency's traditional supporters.

Certain major contributors to the United Nations have never donated to UNRWA and we urge them to consider their approach now. As Sir John Rennie has pointed out, UNRWA has been able to cope with its recurring deficits only by postponing essential building and by cutting back on relief services. The report which we have before us shows clearly the harsh realities of the financial crisis and it is incumbent upon us all this session of the General Assembly to find an adequate solution. If we do not confront this issue now or if we postpone action, we will be failing in our responsibilities.

The Commissioner-General and his staff, in the face of formidable difficulties, continue to perform these difficult tasks with a high degree of commitment and effectiveness.

The Commissioner-General's report reveals the effects of the Lebanese civil war on UNRWA's operations generally and particularly within Lebanon. It has been a struggle to keep schools open, provide adequate medical care and distribute rations. We note with deep concern the loss of life, personal injury and destruction of property, particularly shelters, suffered by innocent people who once again have become victims of human conflict. It is our hope that this conflict will be soon resolved, that peace will return to Lebanon and that UNRWA will be able to resume its normal activities there.

Member states will have noted in the Secretary-General's report the concern expressed over the destruction of shelters, and also in the response of the Commissioner-General to the Secretary-General's inquiry that shelters have been demolished as a punitive measure by Israel and that not all of the shelters destroyed since 1971 have been replaced nor have all of the families displaced by that destruction been adequately housed. We note with concern that shelters destroyed are not being more promptly replaced.

Canada is basically satisfied that UNRWA is operating effectively within the financial constraints and difficult environment within which it has been forced to work. That it does so well is a credit to the Agency. That it receives such inadequate financial support is no credit to the international community. From the report before us and from the appeals of the Secretary-General and Commissioner-General during the past year, it is only too clear that UNRWA has barely survived yet another financial crisis. It seems to us that the situation has now developed to a point where these crises are becoming institutionalized. My Government considers it to be completely unsatisfactory that the Commissioner-General of this important humanitarian agency of the UN should be placed in the position of a beggar, trying to achieve adequate financing for it. His precious time and energy could be more productively employed if all of us respond as the need demands.

While we emphasize the need for an immediate solution to the problem of financing, we realize that it will not be easy. Although it has had a distressing longevity, UNRWA is intended to be a temporary organization, not lending itself by nature to long range planning. Consequently, the only alternative is for member states to be more responsive than in the past. Although the views of our governments regarding the political conflicts in the Middle East may differ, we must all agree that the plight of the Palestinian refugees remains a humanitarian problem on a tragic scale and as such a responsibility no government can in conscience ignore.

The international community must ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of food, health care, education and shelter are provided to the Palestinians, while we await a solution to the problem. We cannot allow political differences to dictate intolerable living conditions for any fellow human beings.

The Government of Canada believes that the proper means to meet these basic humanitarian needs of the Palestinians is through the established United Nations Agency. We reiterate our plea to all members to participate generously in this humanitarian responsibility we all share.

THE QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Canadians are justifiably proud of their country's role as a peacekeeper. Canada has been a contributor to every major peacekeeping endeavour undertaken by the UN since the organization was created in the shadow of the Second World War. One such operation which has now endured some 12 years is the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). For some time, Canada, along with several other countries, has been concerned of the lack of substantial progress towards a settlement of the Cyprus question, as well as the evident lack of support for UNFICYP within the UN membership itself. On November 11, 1976, Mr. William H. Barton voiced these concerns during the debate on Cyprus in plenary:

Canada joined with the great majority of member states in supporting the resolutions adopted by this Assembly on the question of Cyprus in 1974 and in 1975. We have supported as well the mandate of the Secretary-General to provide his good offices to the two communities in Cyprus. We have contributed to and supported the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the island, but, other than the central concern of peace and security in the region, the principal focus of Canada's direct interest in the situation in Cyprus has been the presence on the island for the past 12 years of Canadian soldiers as part of the United Nations force in Cyprus. Over 18,000 Canadians have served in Cyprus during this period. We are proud of the contribution these men have made along with their comrades from Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Ireland and Australia. Service to the United Nations in the capacity of peacekeepers has become a significant role for the Canadian Armed Forces which the Government values highly and which it formally reaffirmed in 1975. In this context, I am sure that the troop-contributing states I have just mentioned would join with Canada in reiterating the call, expressed in operative Paragraph 9 of Resolution 3395 (XXX), for all parties to the dispute in Cyprus to co-operate fully with UNFICYP.

My Government has never concealed its reservations about certain aspects of the United Nations role in Cyprus. Canadian representatives on the Security Council in 1967-68 emphasized the need to arrive at a situation in which the Force was no longer required in Cyprus and, in the meantime, they called for a larger number of voluntary financial contributions. Despite the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and of the Security Council scant progress has been made towards these goals over the last ten years. Indeed one cannot but wonder whether, in the past two years, the prospects of an equitable political settlement may not have declined. The mandate of the Force has become increasingly difficult to reconcile with the situation on the ground and its finances have remained precarious. Only 16 member states as of July have contributed to its financing in 1976, not including three permanent members of the Security Council.

The peacekeeping role of UNFICYP is generally acknowledged in this Assembly to be essential in the search for an enduring settlement, and yet its continuation at this moment is dependent on the willingness of troop-contributors to maintain their participation notwithstanding serious arrears in the settlement of amounts owing to them and indeed, in the present circumstances, owing to the shortfall of voluntary contributions, it is the troop-contributors who are financing the deficit. This cannot go on indefinitely. All member governments, and particularly those in the European region, have a responsibility to demonstrate their political support for the operation by sharing in the costs. It is not too soon for them to face up to the responsibility they will carry if the Force should have to be withdrawn for the lack of funds.

The situation in Cyprus should be of direct and substantial concern to the international community as a whole. It was because of this that the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Don Jamieson, noted in his address to plenary on September 29, 1976, that it is important that member states give tangible and effective expression to their concern, by providing an adequate level of financial support to UNFICYP, which is carrying out a meaningful role on the island. We are continually assured that there is little prospect for more than temporary peace without the continued presence of this peacekeeping force. In this it is important to recall, Mr. President, the firm stand of Canada over the years that peacekeeping can but be a step — albeit significant — *en route* to peacemaking.

Canada's involvement in Cyprus stems primarily from our membership in the United Nations and our readiness to assist the organization to maintain peace and security. It also stems from concern for the national integrity of a fellow Commonwealth member and for the harsh fate that has befallen countless individual Cypriots. In this connection, further attention still needs to be focused on the matter of individuals who have been unaccounted for since the conflict of 1974; their families have already experienced immeasurable grief, which should not be allowed to continue. This matter is considered in last year's plenary Resolution 3395. Yet the situation persists and we must again urge that "the tracing and accounting for missing persons" be conducted as effectively as possible on an urgent basis.

In concluding, we cannot help but underline our justifiable concern, shared by several member states, that the past year has witnessed not only a lack of progress in Cyprus but also a gradual process of entrenchment. We view with grave concern and apprehension what this may mean for prospects for a negotiated solution. Resolution 3212 and 3395 remain unimplemented. It is an understatement to say Canada is disappointed at this. Nonetheless, we remain convinced that these resolutions continue to be appropriate. We also continue to support the essential proposition they reflect — namely, that an effective, fair and enduring settlement can best be achieved by negotiations between the two communities directly concerned. This organization must stand ready to encourage and to assist the process where it can. The parties to the dispute must be prepared to set long-standing difficulties aside to open the way for substantive negotiations towards a just and lasting peace on the island. We are heartened that in his latest report to the Security Council the Secretary-General echoes this sentiment and has pledged his best efforts “to bring about a resumption of meaningful negotiations and to assist the parties in making the urgently-required progress towards a settlement of the Cyprus problem”.

DISARMAMENT

The United Nations role in the search for a solution to the complex problems of disarmament continued at the thirty-first session. The growing frustration at the lack of progress on this range of issues was reflected in the more than 100 statements of national position and the adoption of 22 resolutions. It was against this background that Mr. Harry Jay, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva, intervened in the general debate on disarmament in the First Committee. Mr. Jay's statement was delivered on November 5, 1976:

My predecessors in this committee have repeatedly spoken of the growing impatience, frustration and deep disappointment felt by most countries — and certainly by Canada — at the continuing failure of the international community to face up more concretely and rapidly to the awesome problems that confront us in the field of disarmament. Despite some modest steps, the record of achievement in the past 12 months has provided no cause for comfort.

Will we have to voice the same harsh judgment at the end of the Disarmament Decade as we do at its mid-point? Will we be forced to admit in five years that the declaration of the 1970s as the Disarmament Decade was a half-hearted gesture? I fear that international security will be in even greater peril if, in those next five-years, we do not come to grips with the tasks set out for the Decade. We must reach early agreement on the most pressing arms-control problems and follow through with the most vigorous possible action to resolve them. All states of military significance must share in this important task, but the primary responsibility to ensure that the Disarmament Decade is not a failure rests with the nuclear-weapon states.

Of all the problems we face in the arms-control and disarmament field none is greater or deserves higher priority than the need for limitations and reductions in nuclear arms, for an effective ban on all nuclear-weapons testing and for further strengthening of the nuclear-non-proliferation system.

As valuable as they have been, the strategic arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union have not yet slowed the nuclear arms race, much less led to any reduction in nuclear arms. Canada welcomed the SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) agreement and the establishment at Vladivostok in 1974 of the principle of numerical equality in central strategic systems. Four years have passed since the SALT I agreement and the Vladivostok principles still remain to be confirmed in a definitive SALT II agreement. Over those years new developments in strategic weaponry have further complicated the task of achieving measures to curtail competition in nuclear weapons. All of us in the international community must be fully conscious of the complexity of the problems the United States and the Soviet Union confront in undertaking even gradual and partial measures of nuclear disarmament, but we strongly believe they must make a more determined effort to surmount these problems. We appeal to the two principal nuclear powers again to move with greater speed towards the conclusion of SALT II and to move on to SALT III — that is, from limitations to effective reductions — at the earliest possible date.

Despite the appeals made year after year for almost three decades in resolutions of this Assembly, progress in recent years towards a ban on all nuclear-weapons testing has been almost imperceptible. The Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 has not yet been signed by two nuclear-weapon states and one of them is still engaging in atmospheric testing.

The achievement of a comprehensive test ban, like strategic arms limitation, involves difficult security, political and technical problems and perceptions. In the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) many countries, including my own, have tried to contribute to the solution of some of those problems, particularly those that would have to be faced in verifying compliance with such a treaty. We hope the search for solutions will be advanced by the group of scientific experts established by the CCD this year to investigate the possibilities for international co-operation in detecting and identifying seismic events, but the work of that group will be more useful if it has the active support of all nuclear-weapon state members of the CCD.

Although the CCD continues to grapple with the question of nuclear testing, it is difficult to accept that more resolute efforts have not been made by the nuclear-weapon states themselves to overcome the obstacles to a nuclear test ban. We fail to understand why, as at least one nuclear-weapon state has argued, movement towards a CTB (Complete Test Ban) is impossible unless all five nuclear-weapon states participate from the outset. Ultimately — and sooner rather than later — all nuclear-weapon states must stop their weapons testing in all environments. But what insurmountable obstacles prevent at least the two superpowers, and as many other nuclear-weapon states as possible, from entering into a formal interim agreement to end their nuclear-weapon testing for a defined trial period? When the two superpowers already have nuclear-weapon arsenals of such enormous magnitude and when their own capacity for destruction so greatly exceeds that of any other nuclear-weapon state, how can it be argued with any credibility that an interim testing halt by the two of them would threaten their security unless all of the remaining

nuclear-weapon states immediately followed suit? If we are ever to have a comprehensive test ban someone must take the first step and the two superpowers are the ones who should take it.

If such an agreement were reached for a fixed trial period it could, at the end of that time, be reviewed by its adherents to determine whether it might be further extended or be transformed into a permanent agreement including all nuclear-weapon states. One thing, however, must be stressed. In proposing an interim agreement, we are not calling for an unverified moratorium. On the contrary, we envisage an agreement open to all states, containing measures to ensure first that its terms are fully honoured and second that any nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes do not confer weapons-related benefits.

We can welcome the achievement by the United States and the Soviet Union of their Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and their related agreement on peaceful nuclear explosions to the extent that they constitute mutual restraints and contain provisions for verification. But we consider these measures to be initial steps only. Agreements that permit the yield of individual explosions to remain as high as 150 kilotons are very modest indeed. In Canada's view a much more far-reaching demonstration of the superpowers' determination to secure a CTB is required most urgently.

Although existing nuclear-weapon arsenals pose the most immediate threat to world security, all of us continue to be haunted by the danger that nuclear weapons will spread to more states. If more resolute efforts are not made to avert this danger, we shall have frittered away completely whatever chance there still may be of eliminating the threat of nuclear destruction.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty and its associated system of IAEA safeguards continue to be the basic instruments of the non-proliferation system and the most appropriate framework for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. One of the important tasks of this committee this year will be to assess the progress that has been made since the NPT Review Conference of May 1975. Canada is encouraged that some positive steps have been taken since the Review Conference but we are convinced that much that should have been done in support of the non-proliferation objective has not been done. As we all know, the treaty's obligations apply to all of its parties — to nuclear-weapon states as well as non-nuclear-weapon states.

While non-nuclear-weapon states parties undertook not to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear-explosive devices, the nuclear-weapon states parties undertook, in return, to pursue negotiations in good faith and at an early date towards nuclear disarmament. We regret that the nuclear-weapon states have not done more to fulfil their part of the NPT bargain. An effective non-proliferation system is in the interest of all states. But to be fully effective and to serve the interests of all states, the non-proliferation system must entail restraints on vertical as well as horizontal nuclear proliferation.

An important achievement has been the growth in the number of the treaty's adherents from just over 80 at the time of the Review Conference to about one hundred. Parties to the treaty now include almost all of the most highly industrialized countries and the great majority of developing countries. By forswearing the acquisition of nuclear-explosive devices and by placing all of their nuclear activities under IAEA-administered safeguards to verify this commitment, this impressive group of states from all regions of the world has clearly rejected the mistaken notion that either the possession of nuclear weapons or the retention of an option to acquire them is a guarantee of security in some way essential to national sovereignty and the reinforcement of national prestige. It is cause for the deepest concern, however, that this encouraging perspective is not yet shared by certain other states advanced in nuclear technology or in the process of acquiring that technology. We appeal to those states to reassess their reasons for not making a firm commitment to the non-proliferation objective either by adhering to the NPT or in some other equally binding and verifiable way.

In its Final Declaration the NPT Review Conference urged that "in all achievable ways" steps be taken to strengthen the application of nuclear safeguards as the reasonable and necessary condition for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Canada has taken this appeal very seriously indeed. We have made it clear in the negotiation of new bilateral nuclear co-operation agreements and in the renegotiation of others that we are determined to ensure that Canadian nuclear assistance will be used solely for peaceful, non-explosive purposes.

We have been gratified by the measures that have been taken in the IAEA and among suppliers since the NPT Review Conference to reinforce and broaden the application of nuclear safeguards. Important steps have been taken in safeguards agreements concluded by a number of countries with the IAEA in the past year, especially their explicit exclusion of any explosive use and strengthened provisions for the application of safeguards to technology transfers. We very much welcome the detailed study being given in the IAEA and elsewhere to the need for exercising greater

care and for applying more stringent controls in the use of the most sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle. Canada will continue to press in its bilateral nuclear relations and in all appropriate forums for the further strengthening and broadening of the scope of nuclear safeguards. In our view, safeguards will not be fully effective until they cover all peaceful nuclear activities in all states. As a country which has willingly accepted the application of safeguards to all of its own nuclear industry, Canada firmly believes that universal acceptance of such safeguards would provide the soundest basis for international nuclear co-operation.

The NPT Review Conference called for intensified study of the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It strongly reaffirmed the provisions of Article V of the Treaty where-by any potential benefits from the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes will be available to non-nuclear weapon states party to the treaty on a non-discriminatory basis, under appropriate international observation and procedures, through an appropriate international body and pursuant to a special international agreement or agreements. It confirmed that any such benefits could be made available to non-nuclear-weapon states not party to the treaty by way of nuclear-explosive services provided by nuclear-weapon states and conducted under the appropriate international observation and procedures called for in Article V. It concluded that the IAEA was the international body through which potential benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear explosions could be made available by nuclear-weapon states to non-nuclear-weapon states.

Canada fully supported these conclusions. Nonetheless we remain to be convinced that there are significant potential benefits in so-called peaceful nuclear explosions. We doubt that any benefits that may exist would outweigh the inherent risks. Certainly there can be no question that such explosions would have crucial arms-control implications. It has been clearly recognized in resolutions of this Assembly in 1974 and 1975 that no distinction can be made between the technology for nuclear weapons and for nuclear-explosive devices for peaceful purposes and that it is not possible to develop such devices for peaceful application without at the same time acquiring nuclear-weapons capability. It is for this reason that we are participating fully in the detailed study being conducted in the IAEA of the economic, technical, safety, environmental and legal aspects of peaceful nuclear explosions. The IAEA studies will require more time but we hope they will lead not only to broad consensus on the economic, technical and legal aspects of peaceful nuclear explosions but also to international arrangements for the provision of PNE services that are fully consistent with the requirements of the NPT and other international legal instruments, including the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963. We do not minimize the difficulties involved in devising such arrangements. But it could be much harder to reach agreement on international arrangements to govern PNE services if we wait until whatever economic value they may have, has been demonstrated.

The NPT Review Conference confirmed that internationally-recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones can be an effective means of curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and of strengthening the security of states which become fully bound by their provisions. The nuclear-weapon-free zone concept and the possibility of establishing such zones in various parts of the world have been the subjects of numerous resolutions of this Assembly in recent years and will be addressed again this year. Yet, apart from the Antarctic, Latin America is the only area of the world which has been established as a nuclear-weapon-free zone by treaty and that treaty is still not in force for some important countries of the region. Moreover, its protocols have yet to be adopted by all of the states to which they were designed to apply.

In principle Canada supports the nuclear-weapon-free zone concept. Our understanding of this concept has been deepened by the thorough study undertaken in the CCD and presented to the Assembly last year. I wish to stress, however, that, in Canada's view, the value of any specific nuclear-weapon-free zone proposal or arrangement will depend on whether it has or is likely to have the support of most countries of the area concerned including of necessity the major military powers of the region. It will also depend on a clear definition of the geographic area covered, on assurance that the arrangement would not confer additional military advantage to any state or to any group of states and on the provisions made for ensuring that all component countries comply fully with the commitments involved and forswear the independent acquisition of nuclear-explosive capability. It is also essential that supplementary arrangements applicable to states outside the region concerned be realistic and fully consistent with generally-recognized principles of international law. Moreover, it is important to recognize that there can be no all-purpose blueprint for nuclear-weapon-free zone arrangements. Obviously, when requested, the United Nations has a responsibility to assist in the establishment of such arrangements but the terms of such arrangements cannot be imposed.

Before leaving the question of nuclear proliferation I want to emphasize the need for a constructive approach to the assessment of the progress achieved since the NPT Review Conference. Canada recognizes that the NPT is not a perfect instrument. Nevertheless, it must be borne firmly in mind that, whatever its weaknesses, the treaty's objectives are as valid today as they were when it was concluded. We agree with the many states which deeply regret that more has not been done to reinforce it.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the non-proliferation system is as much in the interest of non-nuclear-weapon states as of nuclear-weapon states. It is as much in the interest of developing countries as of developed countries. The non-proliferation system has the cardinal value of sparing non-nuclear-weapon states the diversion of economic and human resources to non-productive and potentially destructive ends.

Although first priority must be given to checking the growth and averting the spread of nuclear arms, we must seek and exploit every opportunity to curb the growth and use of other weapons. For three decades we have been spared a nuclear war but conventional arms have continued to exact an appalling toll in life, suffering and material destruction. The international arms trade has reached mammoth proportions and continues to devour vast resources urgently needed for productive economic and social purposes throughout the world. The need to check the growth and spread of conventional arms has been largely ignored in disarmament forums. Concerted international action is urgently required among both suppliers and recipients to check the growth in the arms trade. As other members of this Assembly have already suggested, it might be particularly fruitful to approach this problem at the regional level.

The Vienna negotiations for mutual and balanced force reductions in Central Europe offer prospect of significant steps in disarmament and the reduction of the danger of confrontation at the regional level. Unfortunately, progress has been slow and the negotiations are now about to enter their fourth year with little measurable achievement yet in sight. Canada attaches high priority to MBFR and, in that forum as in others, will continue to work for the achievement of meaningful measures of disarmament and the improvement of mutual confidence.

It is particularly timely that in the middle of the Disarmament Decade we are reviewing the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Canada fully supports the search for ways of enabling the UN to carry out this role more effectively. We have participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established last year to undertake this review and we are prepared to endorse its report. The United Nations remains the principal forum in which to focus world attention on the need to limit and reduce the levels of military forces and armaments, for the exchange of views among member states on multilateral disarmament issues and for encouraging the examination of disarmament-related questions in other international forums.

At the same time it has been repeatedly recognized in resolutions of this Assembly that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament continues to be the most appropriate forum for the negotiation of arms-control agreements intended to have universal application. Canada deeply regrets that, except for the draft environmental-modification convention, no arms-control treaty has emerged from the CCD in recent years. Nevertheless the CCD remains well suited to the negotiation of international arms-control agreements whenever fundamental political and other obstacles can be overcome. The value of the CCD would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of those nuclear-weapon states which have not yet participated in its work. The CCD has decided to undertake a comprehensive review of its procedures early in 1977. Canada supports efforts to improve the effectiveness of the CCD and will, in particular, be prepared to give sympathetic consideration to changes in the structure or procedures of the CCD that would make possible the participation of more than three of the nuclear-weapon states.

The CCD's utility as a negotiating forum has been again well demonstrated this year by the elaboration of a draft convention to prohibit the military or any other hostile use of environmental-modification techniques. We are well aware of the reservations some countries have about the draft convention, particularly about the scope of its prohibition. We do not consider the draft convention to be a faultless document nor, given the other and more pressing priorities in the arms-control field, do we regard it as a major landmark. Canada is nevertheless prepared to join in recommending to governments that they sign the draft convention in its present form in the hope that it will inhibit whatever plans some states might otherwise make or contemplate for the hostile use of environmental-modification techniques. Its provision for periodic review is particularly important in dealing with techniques so little understood as those the convention seeks to regulate. We also support fully the provision in Article III of the draft convention for the fullest possible exchange of scientific and technological information in the use of environmental-modification techniques for peaceful purposes which, we hope, will help to foster greater international co-operation in a field of vital importance to us all.

Canada sincerely hopes that the value of the CCD will be further demonstrated in the continuing consideration it is expected to give to a convention to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Discussion of this question in the CCD and elsewhere this year has provided some glimmer of hope for at least a modest breakthrough toward resolving the problems, particularly the problems of verification that have so long stood in the way of achieving such a convention. This Assembly should give further encouragement to the CCD to press ahead with this task.

We also look for progress in the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International

Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. At this stage all of us must redouble our efforts to ensure that agreements will be reached on certain prohibitions or restrictions on the use of specific conventional weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects.

Many members of the Assembly have expressed the view that the cause of disarmament could be significantly advanced by the convening of a special session on disarmament. Canada stands ready to support a call for such a special session and to participate fully and constructively in it and in the careful preparations that it will require. It must not be a dialogue of the deaf. Our objective for the session must be to infuse a new sense of purpose into the quest for peace and security.

I have sought to underline the arms-control problems which Canada considers most pressing. It should be clear to this committee that Canadians firmly believe that no more time must be lost in seeking resolutions to those problems. We must all, as the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs said in this Assembly on September 29, "re-examine our traditional assumptions, take adequate account of the security concerns of others and seize all opportunities for concrete action".

PEACEKEEPING

As a major contributor to peacekeeping operations, Canada has been an active participant in the deliberations of the Committee of 33, the special committee charged by the UN with elaborating guidelines for the establishment and control of peacekeeping operations in the field. The Committee of 33 reports annually to the UN Special Political Committee, in which Mr. Fernand Leblanc, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, delivered the following statement on December 7, 1976:

Canada, as a country which has participated in all but the very earliest UN peacekeeping operations, has a direct and continuing interest in ensuring that such operations are mounted and maintained in the most effective and efficient manner. From the outset, we have been aware of the fundamental differences which have interfered with the attainment of this objective.

We have participated in the Committee of 33, since it was created in 1965, in the hope that it could help resolve at least some of these fundamental differences of opinion among member states on the role of the UN in keeping the peace. Unfortunately, these differences remain. For example, the report of the Special Committee reveals that on just four articles in relation to peacekeeping guidelines has even tentative agreement been reached, on the understanding that the guidelines must be deemed a "package" which may be formally approved only if and when all the various articles have been agreed upon.

Permit me to comment on certain of the draft formulas prepared by the Working Group. The tentative agreement reached on the aim of the draft guidelines merits particular attention in that it enjoins the committee to agree upon principles and methods to ensure that all peacekeeping operations shall be used in the future as in the past in the common interests of the United Nations. It might be said that this is a truism, but of course it is an essential precondition for further progress. The draft articles will, if pursued at the time any new peacekeeping operation is established, provide useful and necessary guidance to supplement the background experience this organization already has. This will be important for the Security Council when called upon, on short notice, to get such a presence into the field.

In light of remarks made by my delegation during earlier discussions of the matter, I also wish to comment upon the provision in the draft guidelines dealing with the subsidiary organ of the Council which may be established under Article 29 of the Charter. Members will be aware of our reservations regarding the feasibility of a proposal that might have made it mandatory for such a body to provide the mechanism for direct operational control of a force in the field. At the same time, while such an organ has not yet in UN peacekeeping history performed these tasks, Canada has never wished to rule out the possibility that bodies of this nature could have a useful role to play in future peacekeeping and peace-observation activities, especially in an advisory capacity. In this connection, it is noteworthy that provision has been made in Article 4 of the draft guidelines for the participation of representatives of host countries and of those countries providing voluntarily on a substantial scale financial and other material contributions such as facilities, services and equipment. In this light, the Canadian delegation is especially satisfied that the draft guidelines propose the establishment of such a body, conditional upon the circumstances surrounding the setting-up of the operation.

With due regard to the importance of the matters the committee has dealt with to date, it must be admitted that, measured in relation to the achievement of agreement on the guidelines as a whole, one could certainly not describe the work of the Special Committee on peacekeeping as a resounding success. Were tentative agreement on a title, three guidelines and a portion of a fourth after 11 years' work all we had to gauge our achievement, one might be tempted to dismiss the work of the committee as irrelevant.

Fortunately, there are other indirect benefits to the organization which have accrued from the committee's work. We believe that it has been at least in part due to the efforts of the committee that peacekeeping operations have continued over the years. This in itself, in our view, justifies the existence of the committee. Today, two UN peacekeeping operations — UNEF, set up in 1973, and UNDOF, set up in 1974 — stand as very useful and precedent-setting models. There can be no doubt concerning the legal basis on which they were founded and continue to operate. Financially, they are operating on an agreed assessment to be shared by all members of the United Nations. That they were organized in this way was largely, we believe, due to the experience gained from studies which originated in the Special Committee.

Peacekeeping is a noble and vital venture of the international community. But it must never become an end in itself. Canada is concerned that peacekeeping be accompanied by active, concurrent peacemaking. There are, unfortun-

ately, examples where the process of peacemaking virtually ceased once a peacekeeping force was in position. This is a tendency to be deplored, for, if the conditions which led to the interposition of the UN Force continue to fester and no political solution is found, violence inevitably will recur. Agreed guidelines cannot eliminate this problem, but we must ensure that the parties to a dispute are constantly reminded of their responsibility to press on with meaningful negotiations.

Last year my Government, recognizing that scant progress was likely on guidelines if the atmosphere which prevailed during 1975 continued, proposed that the committee address itself to some of the practical operational aspects of peacekeeping. We did so, in part, because we wanted to keep the committee engaged in meaningful work until some of the doctrinal differences which had impeded progress might be resolved and the committee could again direct its attention to its primary task, the achievement of agreed guidelines. We feel that it would be useful if the committee were to continue to address these practical aspects of peacekeeping as a secondary task. We note from the report that suggestions on practical aspects have been advanced not only by members of the committee and its working group but also by other nations with an interest in peacekeeping. We believe that certain of these suggestions merit serious study by the committee. Where appropriate, action to give substance to useful suggestions — for example, on training for peacekeeping — should be proposed to the General Assembly next year.

I do not believe it is necessary for me to reiterate Canada's commitment to peacekeeping. At the same time, Canada, following the note struck here by our Secretary of State for External Affairs a few weeks ago, will continue to remind those with primary responsibilities for peace negotiations that our attitude to particular peacekeeping operations will be very much influenced by the vigour with which peacemaking efforts are pursued and by the degree of support which these operations receive from the membership as a whole.

In this connection I should like to refer for a moment to the role of the UN Force in Cyprus, which cannot be described as being completely satisfactory. When Canada was last on the Security Council in 1967-68 we stressed the need to arrive at a situation in which the Force was no longer required in Cyprus, but in the meantime called for a larger number of voluntary financial contributions. A decade later, as we prepare to join the Council again, we find that the prospects for an equitable political settlement may actually have declined. The mandate of the force is increasingly difficult to reconcile with the situation on the ground. Only a handful of member states contribute, not including three permanent members of the Security Council, leaving the troop-contributors to finance their own costs. We know that the Force remains essential to the peace of Cyprus. Other countries share this view. We believe, however, that peacekeeping must be a shared responsibility, taking into account the differing capacities of member states to make a contribution, either of troops or of funds. If the Force is essential to the peace of Cyprus and perhaps to the peace of the Eastern Mediterranean, it must be given the necessary support and co-operation.

In the light of the foregoing remarks, you will be aware of my delegation's belief that there are a number of problems connected with the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations which remain to be resolved. Accordingly, my delegation will support a resolution calling for the continuation of the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping in the conviction that the committee can and must make a serious endeavour to complete its work by the thirty-second session of this Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Canada's position as a country with a highly-advanced nuclear technology and a long-standing commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear power gives force to its strong support for the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Canadian concerns about the dangers of nuclear technology and the need for guaranteeing its peaceful application were articulated by Mr. William H. Barton in the following statement delivered in plenary on November 10, 1976:

The Agency's programs and responsibility to promote adequate planning for nuclear energy through advice, training and information exchange, to develop safety and environmental protection standards, and to enhance international security through the most effective exercise of its growing safeguards responsibilities and the development of standards for physical security of nuclear material are becoming evermore important with the expansion of nuclear-power generation programs throughout the world. Canada considers these particular areas of activity as being vital to ensure that nuclear power is safe for man and his environment and that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy contribute to world progress and not be allowed to become a destabilizing factor through diversion to nuclear arms.

Canada continues to support the expansion of the world's nuclear-power programs where these are decided upon as the most appropriate option for a country — for example, in diversifying its energy base from a generalized reliance on fossil fuels. Some of the factors which must be considered in choosing the nuclear-energy option, for instance the need for economics of scale, of course, apply to any energy decision involving massive capital outlays. The decision to adopt or expand the nuclear-power alternative, however, involves additional consequences which require thorough analysis and planning. It is essential that decisions to enter or expand nuclear-power programs also take into account these additional issues. Nuclear programs require secure sources of fuel and more uranium, now in short supply, will be necessary to satisfy increased demand. Skilled specialist technical personnel must be trained to operate the plants, regulatory mechanism must be in place to ensure their safety, and long-term waste-management systems must be demonstrated to safely store irradiated materials.

I mention these general considerations in no sense in a negative way. Rather they are challenges to our societies as they seek to ensure adequate energy for economic development. The introduction of any new technology implies the introduction of new problems and challenges. International pooling of effort is essential because of the complexity of the energy choices we are all forced to make. In the analysis and the solution of these problems, Canada looks to the Agency for leadership in its area of special competence.

Canada has been pleased to note in the Agency's Annual Report for 1975 the attention given to training personnel and providing assistance and advisory services to nuclear states, particularly developing countries.

Total resources available for technical assistance continue to be considerably expanded and the Annual Report takes note of the corresponding increase in large-scale, i.e. UNDP, projects executed by the Agency. It has become apparent that as more nations make long-term commitments to nuclear power, the Agency is called upon to provide assistance with training programs needed to ensure adequate and efficient management of their nuclear programs. Canada supports these efforts and will continue to contribute in the future. In the context of technical assistance I am pleased to be able to pledge that the Canadian Government will contribute to the voluntary fund at its assessed level again this year.

As an integral part of our long-standing support of the IAEA and the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), Canada has always placed great emphasis on increased levels of assistance to developing countries through the Agency in the peaceful application of nuclear technology. We look with favour on the encouragement given by the IAEA to developments in the concrete application of nuclear science to world problems. Accordingly, to assist the Agency in its valuable developmental work, Canada has decided to establish in co-operation with the IAEA, a special cash contribution of \$300,000 in the form of a fund-in-trust. This fund will be wholly administered and managed by the IAEA and restricted to parties to the NPT. It is intended that this contribution by Canada will be additional to the amount of development assistance regularly provided by the IAEA to NPT countries.

The interest shown by the Agency in the exploration, mining and development of uranium resources is also an area of particular interest to Canada, not only because we are a major uranium-producer but also because of the importance of uranium to all countries with nuclear-power programs. Canada has always sought to make our expert knowledge and experience in uranium production available to the Agency and will continue to do so.

We are pleased again to see this year the intensified activity by the Agency in the area of nuclear safety. The Agency

will be required to send an increasing number of missions to member states to advise on licensing, siting and other control and regulatory functions in the safety and environmental-protection fields. We are happy to see that the initial draft codes and guides on power-reactor safety are progressing satisfactorily and we hope that in due course a comprehensive set of codes and guides, with sufficient flexibility to be applied to all reactor systems, will be available for application. We believe that internationally-acceptable safety standards are imperative if national nuclear programs are to be consistent with the development needs of a nation and are to grow within safe parameters.

Canada actively supports the continuing Agency study of regional fuel-cycle centres. The dangers inherent in the unrestricted and uncontrolled availability of excess plutonium stocks are obvious, as are the benefits to world energy supply and international security if well-managed and internationally-controlled stocks of fuel are available as needed by the world community. Clearly many questions now raised remain to be resolved, but it is Canada's belief that work in this area must continue at full speed. We are impressed with the thoroughness of the experts' work under Agency auspices on the question of regional centres and will examine their report with great care and will also wish to explore fully the various concepts of international plutonium or spent-fuel management.

The fear that diversion of nuclear materials will contribute to international confrontations has been a critical element of the "nuclear debate" in many countries and, in some instances, threatens the public acceptability of nuclear-power programs and international co-operation. A basic concern in this respect, as the Director-General has noted, is that the Agency's safeguards mandate and its resources always be adequate to the task. This is essential. The growth in the Agency safeguards functions has reflected the growth in international nuclear-power programs. Advances in safeguards standards and techniques have been and continue to be significant and impressive. The safeguards inspectorate continues to grow and must do so to meet the need. We are pleased to see the establishment of a second Division of Safeguards Operations which has already been provided for.

The concept of regional field offices is welcome and will contribute markedly to the efficiency of safeguards administration. We agree with the Director-General that the work of SACS is vital and Canada is looking to that group to play an important role in advising the Director-General on a wide range of issues relating to the effectiveness of safeguards and the availability of information about their administration. Canada is actively participating with the Agency in the further development of safeguards techniques and will continue to do so. We wish to congratulate the Director-General for drawing attention to a shortcoming in the present international safeguards system in terms of the limitations on the scope of safeguards in certain countries. We believe that the international community should review means open for members of the Agency working together to move towards a comprehensive, universal and effective international safeguards structure.

I would like to express my hopes for the work of the Agency in the coming years. It goes without saying that the task of international collaboration involving many nations in such a complex field is indeed a difficult one. Nevertheless, the Agency has been able to achieve a consensus, often under difficult circumstances. Its effectiveness has been a result of the commitment of all member states to finding solutions to difficult, technical problems. International co-operation is indispensable in solving the problems associated with the application of the atom. In this regard, the Agency has been a most effective international mechanism; yet, to remain effective, it must have the same co-operation from its member states that it has had since its inception.

In closing I should like to congratulate the Director-General of the Agency for the leadership which he has displayed and the vigour, ability and good judgment which have characterized that leadership. I pledge the full support of Canada for the activities of the Agency and its program for the future.

OUTER SPACE

As a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and a nation actively involved in space programs, Canada is particularly interested in the work of the United Nations with respect to outer-space matters.

Canada's contribution to the elaboration of principles governing space technology has been important, especially in the field of direct broadcasting by satellites and remote-sensing of the earth from space. The delegation has made specific proposals to resolve the problems that are still facing the committee.

In Canada's view there is an urgent need for the United Nations to reach agreement on a legal framework regulating a fast-growing technology in order to avoid possible conflicts or controversies that could arise from its misuse.

The following statement was delivered by Mr. William H. Barton in the First Committee on October 18, 1976:

Discussion in the General Assembly of issues relating to outer space began 19 years ago. Since then, we have witnessed some spectacular achievements, including the first manned space flight, the landing by man on the moon and, most recently, the successful landings on the planet of Mars. Those have been the achievements which have captured the headlines and caught the imagination of people around the world. It is, however, advances in related but less spectacular areas which have not captured the same headlines but which might prove to be equally important not only in promoting peace and co-operation among the peoples of the world but also contribute in a concrete way to world-wide economic and social development.

During the last 19 years, space technology has been applied with increasing effectiveness to communications and to the solution of environmental, agricultural and resource problems. My delegation believes that advances in the last few years in these practical applications of space technology have reached the point where our discussions can and should be constructive and fruitful. The note Canada wishes to interject in this debate is one of urgency; if we do not make greater progress than we have in the past, technological developments and the expectations of people around the world will together render our debate irrelevant. Technological progress, particularly in the fields of remote-sensing and direct broadcasting from satellites, has been so rapid that it will become increasingly difficult to impose an internationally-agreed legal framework, which at the same time is also technically feasible, on the systems of satellites which are now operational or are about to become so.

I shall comment in a moment on the areas in which we believe there is a particular need to make more progress. However, I would first like to mention something of the development of Canada's space program since last we reported to this Committee. Our primary area of concentration continues to be communications by satellite and there are now three Anik satellites providing communications services to remote Canadian communities. In June of this year, Canada launched the Communications Technology Satellite. The CTS, which was built in co-operation with the United States in association with the European Space Agency, is an experimental satellite. Besides advancing the state of the art as one of the first generations of direct-broadcast satellites, it will carry out socially-oriented experiments in education, long-distance medical diagnosis and health-care and community cultural programs. This is a concrete example of the application of space technology to social as well as technological problems.

During the past year, Canada also embarked on a major program, in the order of about \$70 million, for the design, development and construction of the remote-manipulator system which is to be a component of the NASA Space Shuttle. The remote manipulator is a mechanical arm which astronauts aboard the space shuttle will use for deploying, retrieving and repairing satellites in orbit.

The development of the technology relating to remote-sensing from space of the earth's resources is another area in which Canada has been a pioneer. During the past year, a mobile ground receiving-station has been built and is being installed on the east coast of Canada. This is a complete preprocessing and disseminating facility, which has been developed at low cost. In fact, the total development cost will be in the order of \$2 million, a sum which should be within the budget expectations of most countries contemplating a role in the peaceful uses of outer space. Accordingly, it is our hope that the adaptability of this facility will be of interest to other countries concerned with the development of a remote-sensing capability.

Canada continues to participate in the experimental aeronautical-satellite program which is intended to improve oceanic air-traffic control. We are also taking part in the negotiations for the establishment of an international maritime-satellite system.

I would now like to refer to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which is before this committee. My delegation has been encouraged by the progress which has been made during the last year but remains concerned about the number of important issues yet to be resolved.

We are pleased to note that agreement has been reached on the formulation of nine principles to govern direct television broadcasting by means of satellites. There is, nevertheless, a great deal of work to be done soon. As we pointed out at the nineteenth session of Outer Space Committee in June, there is a danger that our efforts to establish a coherent and practical set of principles will be overtaken by the rapid development of the technology in this field. The danger exists that we will still be debating when television transmissions by means of satellites will be received directly by individual home or community receivers. If such broadcasting is not brought within an agreed international legal regime, and if it is carried out without the consent of the state concerned and without the regard or consideration for its social and cultural needs, there will be a new source of controversy and potential conflict to add to those we already have on earth.

In order to identify positive action which can be taken by the United Nations General Assembly prior to the establishment of operational broadcast systems, it is important that we move as expeditiously as possible to reach agreement on a full set of principles, including principles concerning the outstanding but central issues of co-operation, participation and mutual agreement or consent. It is our opinion that the Canada-Sweden proposals, first tabled in 1973, are a sound basis for a legal framework which will both give states the means to regulate their communications systems and ensure the freest possible exchange of information.

The draft resolution Canada is co-sponsoring directs the Legal Sub-Committee to consider as a matter of high priority the establishment of a set of principles to govern direct television broadcasting and Canada will play a constructive role in those considerations.

I would like to turn to a second area of major Canadian interest: remote-sensing. At the last sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee, five common elements identified earlier were converted into draft principles and three further common elements were agreed upon. This work provides a solid basis for further drafting in the Legal Sub-Committee.

At the last session of the Outer Space Committee, the Canadian delegation referred to a number of draft principles which Canada had tabled in the Legal Sub-Committee. It is our view that these principles include the concepts necessary for the adoption of a legal framework which safeguards national interests without creating obstacles in the way of maximum co-operative utilization of remote-sensing technology — in short, for a balanced regime which would be cautionary without being stifling.

My delegation is pleased to note that progress is being made in the general recognition of the need to consider carefully the question of holding a United Nations conference on outer space. We are convinced that a thorough and balanced study by the Secretariat of all the issues involved in the convening of such a conference will allow the Science and Technical Sub-Committee at the next session to give proper and adequate consideration to this question.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

GENERAL DEBATE

Canada, seriously concerned with the growing gap between the developed and developing nations of the world, has taken a leading role in the "North/South dialogue" intended to lead to a New International Economic Order. In 1976, in addition to Canada's active participation in the Fourth United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD IV), held in Nairobi in May, the Honourable Allan MacEachen, former Secretary of State for External Affairs, served as Co-Chairman of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC). Canada's position on the very complex problems involved was outlined in a statement delivered by Mr. Geoffrey Bruce, Canadian representative in the Assembly's (Economic) Second Committee, on October 15, 1976:

The fundamental facts reflecting North/South economic relations do not need to be debated. It is clear enough that there are many countries represented in this assembly whose peoples are farther from the attainment of greater global economic equality than they were ten years ago.

It has been maintained that the purchasing power of many developing countries, and of virtually all oil-importing developing countries, has deteriorated in real terms since the beginning of the decade. The overall terms of trade of oil-importing developing countries have probably deteriorated from 1970 to 1975. The fact that there was a simultaneous deterioration of approximately the same order in the terms of trade of industrialized countries is little consolation.

Improvements in the positions of developing nations which export primary commodities must be a basic objective of the international community. If we exclude oil from our calculations, 12 major primary commodities account for about 80 per cent of the total export earnings of developing countries. While the possibility of general recovery in world economic circumstances is becoming more and more real, the vulnerability of developing-country economies to future fluctuation remains of potentially very damaging dimensions. It is our continuing hope that the follow-up of UNCTAD IV in implementing the integrated commodity program will make a concrete contribution to dealing with commodity-trade problems important to developing countries.

In the Canadian view, measures aimed at reducing violent fluctuations in primary commodity prices constitute a central objective of the international commodity action. Canada, as a major commodity trader, considers the instability of commodity markets as a major weakness of the world's trading system, requiring urgent remedy. We welcomed the adoption by consensus of the UNCTAD resolution on this, and as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, reporting on UNCTAD IV, said to the House of Commons in June:

"We shall continue to support the principle of joint producer/consumer financial responsibility, on a mandatory basis, for buffer-stock financing within commodity agreements containing such stocks. We shall be actively involved in consultations and negotiations on individual commodities and on the common fund. We shall devote efforts to see that the developing countries achieve additional benefits in the course of the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva."

An important problem of trade in primary commodities is that, in many cases, the bulk of exports is made in relatively unprocessed form. There would be considerable advantages to the economies of commodity-exporting countries and a better allocation of productive resources internationally if commodities could be further processed prior to export where this is economically feasible. A major constraint to further processing in the country of export is the existence of trade barriers in importing countries which bear more heavily on processed rather than unprocessed commodities. For this reason Canada, which has identified further processing as an important Canadian policy objective, attaches great importance to the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Significant trade liberalization in this area will make an important contribution to the resolution of commodity trade problem.

Basically our purpose is to work on reform in the international trading and payments system to contribute to securing economic growth on a continuing basis and to that end to assist the generation of sufficient resources for meaningful progress to be made. Because of the economic circumstances of recent years in particular, many developing countries are now facing severe balance of payments problems and external debt in particular has received considerable attention. Practical solutions to the problems of such countries are necessary. We very much hope that the Conference on International Economic Co-operation will reach some useful understandings in this regard.

While the problems may seem to be fairly clear, solutions remain considerably more evasive. The international economic system is complicated and interrelationships are deep and complex. Structural, multi-disciplinary reform of

the international system needs to be undertaken carefully. At the same time, the very real need for careful preparation should not be misused as an excuse to delay or avoid required reform. Reform is urgently and vitally necessary. As a principle, we agree. The elements of the systems we adopt, however, still need to be worked out.

We believe that, in the last year and a half, we have made some progress in this regard. UNCTAD IV did not achieve all that Canada or other developed and developing countries might have wished. But it represented, without question, an important stage in the process of reform. The decision there to work out the lines of an integrated program for commodity-price stabilization is of central importance.

Other decisions of similar importance are needed. First, they must be well prepared and well documented. It is for this reason that the Paris Conference concentrated during its first phase on the analysis of the problems involved. Some countries have regretted that this six-month phase of analysis and preparation has prevented CIEC from realizing concrete achievements to date which would fully and visibly justify the hopes we had for CIEC a year ago. However, it remains a common objective that developments in coming months might vindicate those hopes, provided that the requisite political will is forthcoming on all sides.

The participants in the Paris Conference are constantly mindful of their responsibilities. The problems they are discussing are global. Agreements, however, will only be reached if they correspond to global interests. Those who are at the conference are obviously acutely mindful of the fact that they represent the interests of those who are not. This is in large part due to the effective communication between participants and non-participants.

The role of the General Assembly is to oversee developments in these varied forums and to provide general leadership and assessment. As the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-Structuring is concluding, a central aspect of this role is the relationship of the General Assembly to the various Specialized Agencies and organizations. In our view, this relationship is a delicate one which should be made more productive than at present. The General Assembly has particular responsibilities in this regard.

With particular respect to specialized matters of substance which in primary discussion and negotiation are the responsibilities of specialized forums, care must be taken not to oversimplify the obstacles to complete agreement. These obstacles are not, as some used to suggest, invented for tactical reasons by reluctant governments of industrialized nations. They are inherent in the complexity of a world trade and payments system which has evolved over time to shape itself to the infinitely varied demands which are placed upon it. The ramifications of this system are therefore as complex as the world community itself. In dealing with specialized aspects of the world system, we must be careful not to let ourselves be compelled by our agreement on the harshness of the problems to believe that it will be an easy matter to work out speedy solutions. Our world is pluralistic and the framework for co-operation and regulation is highly complex. We must in this Assembly set the framework within which specialized forums can work towards specialized solutions. We recognize that the system is not responding adequately to all requirements, and particularly those of developing countries, but in this Assembly we cannot solve all the problems ourselves. This involves a process of building the level of agreement and international co-operation, sector by sector, across the whole range of international economic and social interactions. Only a step-by-step approach will be effective in reducing the unacceptable disparities among nations. What we can do in the General Assembly is to maintain the overview of the system, for purposes of its effective co-ordination and in order to ensure that the whole body of organizations and agencies is proceeding in phase and that each of these organs is aware of the world community's overriding priorities.

This decade has perhaps made us wiser in underlining the extent to which even the little progress we have made in the last 20 years can be neutralized in the wake of adverse economic developments within the world system. From now on we must concentrate on approaches which are more resilient. However, these are necessarily more complex. In the next few years we shall be going to the heart of many dimensions of the basic problems which affect developing countries and their place in the world economic system. Our own responsibilities for keeping these various explorations in focus will be demanding.

One effective way to provide a coherent frame of reference might be to devise an International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade which would be thorough, and which can stand as a blueprint for progress towards a New International Economic Order to which all points of the world system can refer for overall guidance in North/South relations.

This task will be a major challenge. It is our belief that it should be undertaken well before this present decade is over. We should begin to organize our approach for this task at this session of the General Assembly. In the view of this delegation, the Third Development Decade exercise is in itself sufficiently demanding, and is obviously urgent

enough, to persuade member states that it should become a central priority for the next few years. The strategy of the Second Decade has been overtaken. Whether or not we revise it is in our view not particularly material. We all know where it is deficient. We also know where developed countries have been deficient in some of their obligations, as well as areas where developing countries have been unable to meet their own goals and objectives, under that strategy. We wish to suggest that, instead of revising an existing document, we turn our attention to devising a wholly up-to-date strategy which will then apply from the moment it is adopted, and which will be flexible enough and pertinent enough to be used on a continuing basis over time.

We are aware here that we are dealing with the world's most compelling and enduring problems. This is the view of the Canadian Government, which outlined its preoccupations in the speech from the Throne, made at the opening of Parliament this week. This address, which sets forth Government policy, referred to international affairs in the following way:

“Canadians are becoming increasingly sensitive to the fact that Canada cannot live in dignity as a nation while other people, in less fortunate lands, live in a state of deprivation and hopelessness.

“It is not in Canada's economic, political or moral interest to allow the gap to widen between the wealth of the few and the poverty of the many. Therefore, the Government will continue to participate in the task of shaping a new international economic order, designed to provide a greater measure of hope to nations seeking the opportunity to help themselves.

“The world is now confronted with a broad range of problems of such complexity and widespread scope that no single nation or group of nations is able to apply effective solutions. Only global solutions will do.

“Increasingly, therefore, Canada's international activities are being directed towards broad-scale co-operative activities. Human settlements, the law of the sea, environmental protection, food and resources production, terrorism, population growth, control of nuclear armaments, economic development — all demand shared responsibility and universal involvement.”

HABITAT

As part of its efforts to improve living conditions for the world's population, the United Nations Environment Program selected Vancouver as the site of Habitat, the world conference on human settlements. The Honourable Barnett Danson, then Minister of State for Urban Affairs, served as President of the Conference. At Habitat, substantial progress was made in improving the understanding of human settlements issues throughout the world. In the post-Conference period, Canada has been active in the efforts to ensure that the important recommendations made at Habitat are translated into concrete action. This concern to maintain the momentum generated at Vancouver was reflected in Mr. Danson's address to the Second Committee on October 25, 1976:

Distinguished delegates, before you now rest the resolutions passed by *Habitat*, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — important resolutions that commit to paper principles dealing with human settlements. The fact that these resolutions were worked out in my country — Canada — is a source of pride to me and to all Canadians. As you know, we are a country in change. We are a young country in terms of rapid urban growth and are currently struggling to digest the social and economic upheaval that is partner and mate to urbanization.

At the same time we are an ancient land, drawing our roots from native civilizations that settled and prospered in the dim memory of time. Because of the disparity and diversity of races and cultures within the vastness of Canada, the inaccessibility of northern reaches and the adversity of climate, we are often brothers with the Third World nations in terms of human settlements.

Habitat has been a stimulating experience for Canadians — stimulating because many of the problems discussed affect us in the broadest sense.

We are, after all, not only producers of technology affecting human settlements but also both beneficiary and victim. Where once the word ecology was known only by academics and where, in times past, the social implications of our common tenancy of this world were of little concern to the vast majority of its people, we are now awakening to our shared responsibility.

But recognizing a moral obligation and letting our actions be guided by that obligation are elements as different as oil and water. It is my hope that the path identified by *Habitat* will be followed, that we take those first steps that mark the beginning of this long journey and that we will not falter or be deterred.

Habitat, because of its focus, has become a crucial element in terms of human settlements, and when I speak of human settlements I mean that in the broadest sense.

The fact that the nations of the world should agree to turn their collective attention to the condition of human settlements is a watershed in the history of our life on this earth. It is my belief that shelter is a collective responsibility. Collective in terms of the relationships between government and man, government and government and man and man. No single partner bears the full weight. Each has his own share of responsibility.

As I see it — as I define the delicate partnership between government and the individual — governments, both singly and collectively, must strive to provide the elements that promote adequate shelter.

It is our job to create the elements of tenure for the individual — and those elements will differ from nation to nation, from place to place.

In some nations this will mean the simple basics of human settlement — first water, a cornerstone of life in any community, and then an adequate system for the disposal of wastes. As simply as those two goals may seem to some individuals and, even to some governments, they are of critical importance to many of us.

It is difficult for citizens of industrialized nations to envisage settlements without water-supply or sewage-disposal systems. It is a thought as foreign to them as the experience of true poverty.

If *Habitat* achieved any single function I believe that it served to enlighten the world about the true condition of human settlements on this planet.

Habitat was a catalyst for discussion and decision-making on both an international and national level. It follows in the best traditions of this body and dealt with an area of basic concern to every member of this United Nations. Now, however, we are faced with the problem of how best to implement and utilize the benefits of *Habitat*. It is my

earnest wish that the advances we have made should not be left to wither on the vines of indifference.

The nations of the world must individually and collectively develop effective programs to improve the human condition. Like the members of a far-flung family we must rally in mutual support, lending each other both the benefits of our individual experiences and the strength that always accompanies the recognition of bonds of the heart.

We can look with satisfaction on the quick response of the regional economic commissions of Europe and Latin America, which have already convened meetings to discuss *Habitat* follow-up action and have advanced proposals for regional co-operation on human settlement problems. We look forward to similar meetings in the other regions and to other world conferences which will deal with issues raised at *Habitat*.

The United Nations world water conference to be held in Argentina in March is a prime example. As you know, it will give effective consideration to the problems of potable water. If it can develop an international program ensuring drinkable water in all communities of the world by 1990, it will be an important step in achieving this objective established by governments at *Habitat*.

There can be no greater goal for mankind than improving the condition of his fellow man and there can be no greater achievement for man than having made a contribution to mankind.

But how best to implement the lessons learned at *Habitat*?

Shortly, a proposed general resolution on the report of the *Habitat* conference will be tabled in this committee. We very much hope that this general resolution will be adopted by member states in the spirit of consensus which we believe is appropriate to a text concerned with human problems of the dimension of those discussed at *Habitat*. This general resolution has been drafted with such a consensus in mind.

A draft resolution on post-*Habitat* use of audio-visual material will also be tabled later. As you know, the audio-visual program was a unique and important part of the preparations and proceedings of the conference. We are indebted to the United Nations environment program for the support it gave to the audio-visual program and indeed for its support for and contribution to the conference as a whole.

At the conference, all countries agreed that the extensive audio-visual material represented an invaluable resource for education, training and public information on human settlements, and that steps should be taken to ensure their continued and active use after the conference. The resolution to be tabled will propose the establishment of a United Nations audio-visual information centre to serve these purposes.

On the institutional question, as has been the case for previous conferences, the institutional follow-up to *Habitat* should reasonably be the subject of a separate resolution. There was detailed and thorough discussion at Vancouver on the question of global and regional mechanisms and institutions for human settlements. These discussions yielded a draft resolution which provides in our view an excellent framework for a decision at this session of the General Assembly on the two remaining questions in Section X of the unit. It is important that a decision be taken on these two questions at this session.

The momentum of *Habitat* must be maintained. It should not be allowed to slow. This resolution provides a way for the United Nations to respond to these human problems. A decision is also needed to demonstrate to those living in human settlements around the world that we are able and willing to respond quickly and effectively to their needs and concerns. Too often in the past, we have been accused as nations of failing to unite and to respond effectively to urgent needs. In the view of my Government, there is a need now for a strong and representative intergovernmental committee at the global level, served by a small but effective secretariat, and improved intergovernmental and secretariat arrangements at the regional level.

During this session, we must demonstrate to those millions of men, women and children whose lives will be dramatically affected by this resolution that we, as a world community, are both able and willing, to respond to their needs, their concerns, their pleas for help.

There is nothing lonelier, there is nothing to fire bitterness more or to encourage withdrawal from the common community of man than an ignored call for help. On behalf of those who make this call, I urge you, to act on this resolution and its spirit.

In conclusion, I can only stress once again the importance of the work initiated at *Habitat*. Human settlements con-

tain not only the problems of the world, often reflected through the magnifying effects of concentrated population, but also the solutions to these problems.

Like a doctor seeking out the causes of disease we must continue to identify the symptoms of human settlement problems in the hope of finding a way to deal with the true cause of our collective maladies. Along the way we will attempt to treat those symptoms, providing temporary relief, but we must never lose sight of our original goal — to cure the illness. The world that we inherited — our sometimes shabby patrimony — is not entirely of our making. It is, however, within our power to change it and change it for the better as a magnificent inheritance for our children and our children's children.

What gift could be greater than an improvement in the condition of their life? Expressions of concern can be acceptable but action, based on that concern, is the only truly admirable course.

We can no longer pretend to be isolated by the islands of self-concern. We are a part of every man and every man is truly "a part of the main".

FOOD PROBLEMS

Canada, as a principal producer and exporter of food, had a particular interest in the discussion of world food problems at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly. Indeed, Canada is at present the largest single contributor to the World Food Program, giving over \$200 million in the 1975-76 period. In spite of the efforts of Canada and like-minded countries, it is obvious that adequacy of food supply, temporarily assured because of the abundant harvest in 1976, could deteriorate in the near future if population growth far outstrips increases in production. The following statement, delivered by Mr. Geoffrey Bruce on November 8, 1976, gave the Canadian viewpoint on this problem and suggestions for its solution:

Of all our problems, the adequacy of food supply is the most far-reaching in its effect. Surely the world must be able to feed its inhabitants. Yet, there are pessimistic predictions that the world's population might now increase more slowly than anticipated — not because of more effective approaches to birth-control, but because it is apparently assumed by some that millions of people could starve to death in the next quarter-century. This represents a horrible hypothesis but one whose realization we can still avoid.

The apparent facts are stark in their awful simplicity. For the last five years, world food production has slowed. To some extent this has been the result of severe climatic developments. It suggests, however, that renewed efforts must be made, particularly by developing countries, to improve food-resource capabilities. It is clear that in the Third World at the present time population increase is outstripping food-production increase. Without drastic action, the trend is expected to accelerate; were present trends to continue, mass starvation could occur in certain regions of the world by 1985.

The World Food Conference addressed these questions. The World Food Council has since discussed them at its two first sessions. Yet, the world public has the impression nothing is being done. Can anything be done to redress the situation? Our impression is that the potential for redress is there. Many of our decisions in the last two or three years have been good ones in the sense that they are directed primarily towards developing food-production potential in the developing countries themselves. It has been argued that every nation could be self-sufficient in food if the right choices were made and if national resources and efforts were organized for that purpose. We are not sure if that is a valid assertion within the limits of comparative economic advantage; we are sure, however, that many food importers, particularly in developing countries, have considerably greater potential for food autonomy than present circumstances would indicate.

The realization of this potential is the only reasonable overriding goal we should have. Direct food aid is essentially a stop-gap measure. We in Canada are pleased, as one of the world's great food-producers, to make vast amounts of food available for the struggle against hunger. For example, Canadians are proud their country is contributing this year over \$100 million to the World Food Program. But we don't pretend that direct food aid is doing much more than treating the symptoms of inadequate food production elsewhere, in the hope that this is helping to buy time to enable us to work together to avert catastrophe by enhancing food production in the recipient countries. In this regard, the role of the FAO will be critical. Under the leadership of Dr. Saouma, the FAO's contribution is a dynamic one which helps to reinforce our confidence.

There is no single cause of the world food problem. There is a lack of effective infrastructure in developing countries for the application of sound technology, the transport of produce, and the distribution of food. These conditions are related to the fundamental reasons of underdevelopment itself. Moreover, there has been inadequate policy emphasis in many countries on the overriding need to enhance agricultural production and on some occasions inappropriate choices have been made in favour of some cash crops rather than on basic and traditional food resources. Also, the international policy framework can be strengthened by improving international mechanisms for stabilizing commodity prices in order to permit sound investment planning. Canada is actively pursuing solutions to real problems in grain markets in negotiations under the International Wheat Council in London and in the Multilateral Tariff Negotiations. Any real solution in this sector will have to take into account basic problems in international trading in grains, including the access to markets. However, food supply is vastly too important to be governed by speculation and by speculative market forces. The people of the world have the right to demand a system which provides food security.

These questions — food aid, food production and supply, and food security — have been the object of intense international discussion in recent years. Indeed, in his able introduction of the report of the second session of the World Food Council, Dr. Hannah mentioned these as being the three major areas of concern to the Council, and indeed to the world. Along with nutrition and world trade, they are the priority items in the WFC's work program. They are, of course, all interrelated. Food security can obviously only be attained by enhancing food supply in the long run

and by maintaining adequate levels of food aid in the meantime. However, increasing agricultural production in developing countries has to be our principal goal. Nationally, Canada has made this a major focus of our development-assistance strategy. As a counterpart to Canadian food aid, Canadian experience is being applied to agricultural development projects undertaken with many of our co-operation partners. Internationally, in policy terms, constraints to the increased production of food must be removed. In practical terms, IFAD [the International Fund for Agricultural Development] must be triggered, since this fund, whose purpose is precisely to increase food production in developing countries, could be of major significance in influencing the global picture in ten years' time. We agree with Dr. Hannah that IFAD is thus far a signal achievement of the UN.

Unfortunately, the World Food Council has not in our view been the success we hoped for, despite the efforts of its Executive Director, and it is the responsibility of the member countries to improve its effectiveness. We believe the Council will be able to fulfil its mandate. The adoption at this General Assembly of agreed rules of procedure will help, but our approach must also be modified. Members must abandon the sterile exchange of set-piece speeches attempting to cover the whole range of food problems. Instead, the Council should be encouraged to concentrate its potential energies on the examination in depth of one or two key issues each year pertaining to the fundamental need to increase food production.

Above all, the Council should take seriously its mandate as the highest international political forum addressing itself specifically to world food problems. The Council should not try to duplicate the work of other institutions in the UN system such as the world food program or the FAO Council. The Council should take advantage of the ministerial level of its representation to generate the political will necessary to solve specific elements of the world food strategy. The Council should also provide and use to advantage an overview of all relevant international activities, including those proposed by international conferences such as the UN Water Conference, or the Conference on Science and Technology.

Canada will make every effort to assist the World Food Council to realize its potential for leadership foreseen in the mandate the General Assembly awarded the Council at the time of its creation in 1974. We should take this opportunity to extend to Dr. Hannah our warmest appreciation for his efforts to make the Council a success from the very start.

We are also pledged to make the World Food Program a success. As you know, at the World Food Conference, we pledged to give one million tons of grain per year. Forty per cent of this pledge is being channelled multilaterally and for this purpose, we, in Canada, are using the World Food Program. Indeed, as a result of further supplementary pledges, Canada is the largest single contributor to the program. In 1975 and 1976, we gave over \$200 million in this two-year pledging period. We are particularly interested in the management of the programs. For these reasons, the Canadian Government was pleased — some time ago — to propose one of its most distinguished citizens to be the Executive Director of that program. Mr. Gerry Vogel has for several years been chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board, which is the Canadian public corporation responsible for all marketing of all Canadian grains, at home and abroad. Mr. Vogel has been responsible for running a food organization whose responsibilities each year are of the order of several billion dollars. We should hope his talents and knowledge can be placed at the disposal of the world community at the head of the World Food Program.

We wish to place our own knowledge as food-producers at the disposal of the world community and we are attempting to do so. We have also been trying to provide as much food as possible for those in need. Fortunately the crop year has been good in many countries, including my own, particularly for food grains, including rice, and the situation is correspondingly brighter for the moment.

Yet, we are still obliged to recognize that, quite apart from bulk food supply, there is the issue of inadequate nutrition which is only now beginning to receive the attention it deserves.

The Rio Report prepared for the Club of Rome meeting last month by Jan Tinbergen of the Netherlands points out that: "Estimates of the number of people currently suffering from hunger and undernourishment vary from close to half a billion to one and a half billion". As I said at the outset, this is an appalling fact in itself but, compared to what some have predicted for a decade from now, it is relatively modest in its dimensions. Yet, we can avert catastrophe if we put our minds to it and act. Because of the good cereal crops this year in both developed and developing countries, the world has begun to rebuild its stocks. It is too early to say whether this represents a reversal of recent trends. The effect of the renewed emphasis given to agriculture and food production since the World Food Conference, is, however, becoming apparent. Drastic action must continue.

FOURTH UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Canada considers the issues covered in the "North/South" dialogue the most critical facing the international community and was particularly conscious of the importance of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV). UNCTAD IV, as the first major international trade and development conference following the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly in 1975, was regarded by its participants as the first fundamental test of the willingness of the international community to make concerted efforts towards changing the trade and payments system in a way that would give developing countries a greater share in the world economy and close the widening gap between rich and poor. Canada considered the conference a success. Mr. Geoffrey Bruce gave the Canadian assessment of the conference and the prospects for further progress in the following statement delivered on November 24, 1976:

At this General Assembly we have devoted much of our attention to the North/South (N/S) dialogue – a dialogue which covers the work of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC), the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs), the World Bank, International Development Agency (IDA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – to name only the most important. Because my delegation considers all these negotiations and consultations comprise the most critical challenge before the international community, I should like to say a few words on one of the most important – indeed probably the most important – of these: UNCTAD IV and the program of work flowing from it.

UNCTAD IV was the first major international trade and development conference following the sixth special session of the UNGA, and because of the central role of UNCTAD in the UN, and the critical issues on its agenda, it was regarded therefore as the first fundamental test of the willingness of member states to respond to the political commitments they had made to move towards major changes in the international trade and payments system – changes that would give developing countries a greater share in the world economy, changes that would reverse the widening of the gap between rich and poor, changes that would assist Third World countries in their efforts to give their people not only hope but the reality of a greater measure of economic and social justice.

In assessing the results of UNCTAD IV, I would like, initially, to express the deep gratitude of my delegation to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the comprehensive, constructive evaluation of the conference that he gave us at the opening of this debate. Taken together with the excellent assessment he gave to the Economic and Social Council in July, I think we can have no better guide to UNCTAD's successes and failures.

My delegation believes that UNCTAD IV made a large and important step forward in the on-going discussion and debate on problems between developed and developing countries. In that light we believe that UNCTAD IV must be considered a success. That is not to say, however, that important – indeed, critical – problems do not lie before us awaiting solution. We are aware that many of the proposals of the Group of 77 were not accepted, or, in modified form, fell short of expectations.

Since its achievements and shortcomings have already been well reviewed by Dr. Corea and by the other delegations, I wish only to list them briefly in order to indicate to the Assembly the assessment which my delegation has made of the conference.

First, three general points:

- (a) The conference carried forward the dialogue between developed and developing countries.
- (b) It reconfirmed the commitment of developed and developing countries to work towards fundamental changes in the international trade and payments system.
- (c) It set out the priority problems and issues which were of greatest concern to the Third World.

In this setting what were the most substantive results of UNCTAD IV?

- 1. It approved a number of important resolutions committing the international community to work towards possible negotiations on the whole range of trade, finance and development problems facing the international community, not only in UNCTAD but in other UN and international forums.
- 2. It adopted an integrated program for commodities, and in this connection it approved a program and schedule of preparatory meetings for international negotiations on individual products which are of direct concern to both producing and consuming countries.

As Dr. Corea has pointed out, the commitment to constructive negotiations which we approved at UNCTAD IV will be among the critical tests in measuring the success of the conference.

3. UNCTAD IV renewed the insistence of the international community that the work in the MTNs should be carried forward with greater urgency, including serious efforts to identify those areas of the negotiations where special and differential treatment might be applied to developing countries to facilitate the development of their industry and the expansion of their international trade.
4. Although UNCTAD IV failed to reach agreement on a wide range of serious problems facing developing countries in the field of transfer of resources, the sixteenth session of the Trade and Development Board adopted an important resolution on this subject. In that the debt situation gives rise to serious concern, an important decision was taken to give these interrelated and fundamental issues immediate and high-priority attention in the North/South dialogue and at a ministerial meeting in 1977.
5. At the same time the conference took a number of other important decisions which are well known to all of us, in the fields of transfer of technology, the need for formulating a code of conduct for the transfer of technology, the development of the technological capacity of Third World countries, and for providing special assistance to those in particularly difficult situations.
6. My delegation also considered that the conference took an important decision concerning the need to bring the socialist countries of Eastern Europe more actively into the trade and development dialogue, to encourage them to intensify their contribution to the development of the Third World, and to enlist their commitment to the International Development Strategy for the Second UN Development Decade.
7. I would like particularly to record here the importance which my delegation attaches to the decision of UNCTAD IV in calling for an expansion and intensification of economic co-operation among Third World countries. In this connection we noted with interest that, soon after UNCTAD IV, the Mexican Government served as host to a very important conference on economic co-operation among developing countries. Since that time the Trade and Development Board has created a committee for economic co-operation among developing countries. We consider this an important step forward which will further open the way to the more productive co-operation among developing countries. We look forward to the meeting of the new committee in the near future.

In summary, those of us who were in Nairobi felt, I think, that UNCTAD IV was a conference of the greatest importance, that we had achieved substantial, constructive results; that if the commitments made at it are fulfilled, it will, as the Secretary-General has rightly said, be a landmark of historic importance in reshaping the international economic order. As these remarks suggest, UNCTAD IV cannot be viewed as an end in itself, but, rather, one step (and a very significant one in my mind) along the road of greater international co-operation. It will be a difficult road and there will be disappointments and delays, but I am certain that we shall succeed.

At the same time there were, as I have already noted, some failures and disappointments at UNCTAD IV. While we must not be led into judging our performance against standards of perfection, it must be admitted that in some important areas it fell short of some of our expectations. We must now recommit ourselves to work intensively towards the successful solution of all these critical and complex problems. It will take time, and it will be difficult, but we must persist.

Let me now mention one area — in the field of finance — to which too little consideration was, perhaps, given in Nairobi, and that is the importance of private capital in financing development. I do not want to take time to discuss this problem here, other than to add that the UNCTAD Secretariat, the World Bank and IMF and the Commission on Transnationals have done, and are doing, a great deal of excellent research on official and private financing, and we hope they will work effectively together to help developing countries.

We have given ourselves and the UNCTAD Secretariat a challenging heavy burden of work. We must do what we can to help it meet these responsibilities. We urge the UNCTAD Secretariat to work in closest co-operation with other UN institutions which carry responsibilities in the same general areas. UNIDO, FAO, the Bank and Fund are four obvious ones which come to mind.

In summary, UNCTAD was an important step forward, even though it had its disappointments and failures. Let us hope and let us work to fulfil the commitments we made in Nairobi and make UNCTAD an historic conference.

HUMAN RIGHTS

DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Canada has long been a supporter of United Nations efforts to eradicate racism and racial discrimination. In 1973, as part of these efforts, the UN declared the period 1973-83 a Decade for Action against Racism. The program of action for the Decade called for a world conference on racism and racial discrimination to be held in 1978. Canada, along with the overwhelming majority of member states, welcomed this initiative and extended its full support to the program.

In 1975, Western support for the Decade was seriously undermined by the adoption of a resolution the thrust of which was to condemn Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination. Resolution 3379 (XXX) was unacceptable to all Western countries, including Canada, and, in their opinion, distorted the original character of the Decade. Because of this extraneous distortion, Canada was obliged to vote against the otherwise supportable resolutions concerning the program of action and the world conference, as well as Resolution 3379.

Since it was generally felt that Western participation was essential to the success of the program for action and the world conference, efforts were made at the thirty-first session to restore the original character of the Decade. Although these were not entirely successful, sufficient progress was made to allow Western delegations to take a more positive attitude, and Canada was able to abstain on the resolution concerning the implementation of the program for action. In the resolution concerning the world conference, however, the implied link with Resolution 3379 remained, and Canada maintained its negative vote.

The statement in explanation of these votes was delivered on October 9, 1976, by Miss Sylva Gelber, Canadian representative on the Third Committee:

It is with utmost care that my Government has further considered the two draft resolutions transmitted by ECOSOC to the General Assembly under the item concerning the Decade against racism and racial discrimination and on which our committee will now have to vote.

My delegation wishes to say that we see these two texts as evolving solely from Resolution 3057 (XVIII) unanimously adopted on November 2, 1973, the provisions of which are in keeping with the terms of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination. Article I of the Convention defines racism and racial discrimination as (and I quote) "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin". This is the only interpretation that Canada gives to these terms. It was on this basis that we have actively supported the Decade and it is in this spirit that at the last General Assembly my delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of an alien and totally unacceptable element that in our view threatens the success of the Decade.

Important efforts were made to revive the universal acclaim that surrounded the adoption of the Decade. My Government recognized these efforts, the spirit of conciliation they reflect and the hopes they offer. My delegation is anxious to respond to any effort towards the achievement of the goal that we desire. The progress accomplished seems to us a step in meeting the concerns expressed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, in his statement of September 29, 1976 before the General Assembly.

Although the elements which we had found objectionable in ECOSOC Resolution 1989, and in particular operative Paragraph 3, have now been removed from this resolution, we still feel obliged to oppose the resolution on the world conference because there has been no change in the language of that resolution, which we opposed in the ECOSOC. We look upon these resolutions as two parts of a whole and, because of that, we shall abstain on the resolution on the Decade.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Member states of the United Nations have expressed grave concern about the denial of human rights to the vast majority of South Africans. In 1974, the Economic and Social Council declared that states giving any assistance to regimes in Southern Africa were accomplices of the regimes and therefore accomplices in the denial of human rights. There was no agreement, however, among member states, as to what activities constituted assistance and how such activities contributed to the denial of human rights. Therefore the Economic and Social Council also approved the appointment of a special rapporteur whose task it was to evaluate urgently the importance and source of political, military, economic and other assistance given by certain states and to estimate the direct or indirect effects of such assistance.

The Third Committee had before it this year an interim report of the special rapporteur. While not contesting specific facts presented in the report, Canada took issue with it on two fundamental points. Firstly, the report assumes that all links with such regimes, even normal diplomatic and commercial relations, constitute assistance. Canada does not accept such a position. Secondly, the report limits itself to determining that such links do exist, without attempting to establish whether such links contribute to the denial of human rights.

Canada is a strong opponent of any system that denies fundamental human rights to individuals. However, because of its disagreement with the basic premise of the report, Canada abstained on the resolution on this question. Miss Sylvia Gelber outlined the policy of the Government of Canada in an explanation of vote made in the Third Committee on November 4, 1976:

The Canadian Government, with the full support of the Canadian people, has rejected and continues to reiterate its utter rejection of the institutionalized policies and practices of racial discrimination of the Government of South Africa and described by them as a policy of *Apartheid*. In addition to its moral revulsion at such a policy, Canada has given tangible evidence of its support for the majority people of South Africa.

Some of these measures were enumerated a few days ago in another forum of this Assembly by the Canadian representative, the Honourable Robert Stanbury. Canadians, he pointed out, are appalled by a system which denies to the vast majority of South African people such basic rights as the right to live in the cities in which they work and the right to gain full title to their homes and businesses in the substandard South African cities in which they are obliged to live. Canadians reject such laws as those set out in the complex web of South African legislation which constrains the daily life of 18 million non-white South Africans. Canadians find it incomprehensible that tens of thousands of South African labourers are relegated to barrack life, separated for 51 weeks of the year from their wives and families, while prohibited from bringing their families to areas in which they work. It should be noted in this regard that the labour of these same workers is absolutely essential to the South African economy. Canadians have contempt for the policies of a Government which denies to the vast majority of its workers, solely on grounds of race, the opportunity to advance in accordance with their capabilities.

The Canadian Government has urged the minority in South Africa and their Government to accept the fact that fundamental change in South Africa is crucial. The time remaining for effective peaceful change, we believe, is growing shorter day by day. Change must take place now if peace is to be the means by which it occurs. This is where Canada stands on the question of *apartheid* and on the policy of the South African Government.

The Canadian Government has scrupulously enforced an embargo of arms sales since 1963, and extended it to spare parts in 1970, in accordance with resolutions of the Security Council. We believe that other states should consider themselves obliged to take similar steps. Normal economic relations with South Africa are quite another question.

The Canadian Government is prepared to enter into commercial relations with all countries without regard to their internal political practices, with the exception of the illegal government of Rhodesia, on which a mandatory trade embargo has been imposed by the Security Council. Dozens of UN members have policies similar to ours.

It is precisely because of the importance that Canadians attach to the enjoyment of human rights that my delegation will have no other choice but to abstain on a draft resolution which does not seem to have human rights as its central concern.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

This office, created by the General Assembly in 1950, has the task of alleviating the immediate hardships suffered by refugees while seeking long-term solutions to their problems. The High Commissioner reports annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner is periodically renewed by the General Assembly. Canada has traditionally accorded strong support to the High Commissioner's work. Canada's 1977 contribution to the regular program of the High Commissioner has been increased to \$850,000. In a statement delivered on November 16, 1976, Miss Sylva Gelber expressed the views of the Government of Canada on the 1976 report:

Both in his introductory statement to our committee and in his report, the High Commissioner pointed to his rising concern about repeated violations of the principles of asylum and non-refoulement. Human rights are degraded and people are uprooted in prodigious numbers. Indeed, in some cases the very physical security of the refugees is threatened. It has been hoped that the international community would develop a body of international law that would ensure recognition and protection of the fundamental rights of refugees. The 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees and the 1967 protocol to the convention were seen as the beginning of such a body of law. The High Commissioner's activities have amply demonstrated that this, unfortunately, is not the case. His concern is fully shared by my Government and the people of Canada, who find it difficult to understand and accept the inability of the international community to develop means to defend individuals unable to protect themselves.

Because of these concerns, the Canadian Government has followed with interest the activities of the body of experts that have been working on a draft convention on territorial asylum. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries will provide a valuable opportunity to further codify means that will provide the protection all refugees are entitled to. My delegation was pleased to learn from the High Commissioner that a solution to the problem of financing the conference has been found.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, it was suggested that relevant non-governmental organizations be invited to participate as observers in the conference. My delegation is in full agreement with this proposal and hopes that these organizations will be given an opportunity to contribute to the Conference their valuable experience in the field of refugee protection.

I referred earlier to the need for elaborating legal instruments designed to ensure protection for the refugees. It is, however, obvious that the mere accession to these instruments is not sufficient to guarantee their implementation. Member states must be prepared to honour faithfully the obligations they freely assumed.

Canada believes that each member of the international community must share in the responsibility for the solution to the problems of refugees and displaced persons. Canada traditionally has been a principal country of resettlement. Within the last decade we have received refugees from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. We have tried through a variety of programs to ensure the well-being of those refugees who have settled in Canada. Canada has and will continue to accept refugees for resettlement and assist in funding both the regular programs and special operations that the High Commissioner directs.

The establishment this year of a resident representative of the UNHCR in Canada will, no doubt, further the close working partnership between the Government of Canada and the UNHCR.

My delegation is pleased to mention that the Government in the near future proposes to bring before Parliament revisions to Canada's immigration laws which will reflect more precisely our long tradition as a refugee-receiving country. Details will be announced at the current session of Parliament, but we can say now that the new legislation is expected to anchor more firmly in Canadian statutory law the obligations which Canada has respected since acceding to the convention and protocol on the status of refugees.

The ultimate solution to the refugee problem lies with the individual states rather than with the international community. However, as this problem is likely to be with us for some time to come, we must be grateful that we have in the UNHCR an organization which can, with the co-operation and support of the international community, provide immediate and effective assistance to persons who find themselves adversely affected by events over which they have no control.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

The protection and promotion of human rights has always been a prime concern of the United Nations. To this end various bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, have been established, and various international legal instruments have been ratified. Human rights in general is a very broad topic, and the General Assembly tends to concentrate its attention on particular problems. Since the 1973 overthrow of the Allende Government in Chile, the question of human rights in that country has been a focus of concern in the United Nations.

During its twenty-eighth session, in 1973, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Commission that the Commission should study the report of violations of human rights in Chile. In 1975, the Commission established an ad hoc working group to investigate the situation in Chile. The Working Group arranged with the Government of Chile to visit that country as part of its investigation, but at the last moment the Chilean Government refused to admit it.

The report prepared without the benefit of a visit to Chile was received at the thirty-first session. The Canadian Government's position on the question of human rights in general and the situation in Chile in particular was given by Miss Sylva Gelber on November 12, 1976:

If we look at the number of issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and particularly by the Commission on Human Rights, and at the attention devoted to these issues, we must realize that violations of human rights are of growing concern to citizens everywhere. Much progress has been gained in recent years, especially in the past few months, with the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As international interest grows, it becomes more and more imperative that we adopt appropriate mechanisms designed to rationalize and co-ordinate efforts in the human rights field. In this respect my delegation is pleased that the Economic and Social Council has adopted a resolution concerning the long-term program of work of the Commission on Human Rights. We believe that the arrangements contained in the text, whereby the bureau will meet three days prior to the session to study and organize the agenda, will eventually enable the Commission to accomplish its work in a more orderly and rational way. The grouping of similar agenda items and more frequent recourse to the establishment of small working groups should also permit a more thorough examination of human rights issues.

My delegation welcomes the creation of new standards of international conduct in the human rights field, but it fears that such standards will be of little avail without appropriate complementary machinery to monitor the obligations which states have assumed. It would be desirable that ECOSOC establish, at an early date, generally agreed guidelines on the conduct of investigations by working groups broadly representative of the international community. It would also be desirable to make the procedures for dealing with allegations of violations of internationally agreed standards less cumbersome and less time-consuming.

The recent initiative taken by the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in identifying persistent patterns of violations provide some hope that such procedures can be effective.

My delegation also wishes to thank the working group responsible for investigating the situation on human rights in Chile. Such working groups are one of the few means at the disposal of the international community to defend human rights, despite the fact that some governments have tried to hinder their efforts by insisting upon the twin principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. It would be useful to expand this type of mechanism into one having universal application to all situations in which there are allegations of gross and persistent violations of human rights. My delegation, for its part, will support all efforts to extend if necessary the mandate of the current working group.

In reading the report of the chairman-*rapporteur* of the working group, my delegation was forcibly struck by the lack of progress in reinstating those fundamental rights which have been violated in Chile, despite the repeated appeals of the international community.

The recent request of three Canadian Parliamentarians representing the three major political parties to meet with Chilean authorities illustrates the concern of the Canadian people and Parliament for the situation of human rights in Chile. The fact that this request was denied is a great disappointment and cannot help but further harm Chile's reputation in the international community.

Canada must reiterate its regret that the Government of Chile found it necessary to go back on its decision to allow the entry of the working group and to postpone the visit to a later but as yet unspecified date.

The Government of Chile has frequently reiterated its desire to co-operate with the working group, and has indicated that its refusal to allow entry to the group of experts until a more convenient date does not reflect a change in its attitude towards the international bodies responsible for conducting such investigations. The Canadian delegation believes that the best means of demonstrating this continuing spirit of co-operation would be a renewed commitment by the Government of Chile to reverse its decision and to allow the entry of the working group.

TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

As an expression of Canada's deep concern for the protection of human rights, Mr. Robert Stanbury, delivered the following statement in the Third Committee on December 2, 1976:

The Canadian delegation welcomes the opportunity to speak on an issue of fundamental importance in the struggle to secure a basic standard of social justice throughout the world. The existence of a separate agenda item on "Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" is evidence of increasing concern for the widespread practice of torture, a concern which we hope will continue at subsequent sessions of the General Assembly, of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, and other international organizations concerned with human rights.

Several delegations have expressed satisfaction that the adoption, last year, of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment constituted a landmark in the progressive attainment of our universal objective: the recognition of fundamental human rights. We, too, applaud the work of last year's session, and endorse the provisions of the declaration as a humane response to the harsh realities of current times. But, at the same time, we must emphasize that the essential prohibitions against cruelty to our fellow man as contained in the Declaration are not new. They are in essence a comprehensive expression of standards of conduct contained in other instruments, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which has recently entered into force), and in resolutions and declarations of other international bodies, including the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization. The standards of behaviour which prohibit cruel and inhuman punishment have been in place for some time. Now these standards have been enshrined in a single declaration as a sign of our resolve to secure the recognition of human rights which have all too frequently been ignored in too many quarters of the world.

It seems that the international community is caught in a strange contradiction. More and more voices are raised in denunciation of the practice of torture, yet press reports clearly indicate that the number of countries resorting to torture is increasing. This deplorable situation is further evidenced by the growing number of individual complaints reported to the Division of Human Rights. The Canadian Government believes that the standards of humane and ethical behaviour among men are sufficiently well established. The international community should now turn its attention towards the creation of more effective mechanisms to encourage states to comply with their existing moral and legal obligations. The force of world public opinion should be brought to bear on all states which continue to carry out gross and persistent violations of human rights.

We believe that the essential objective of our efforts should be the rationalization of existing definitions and standards of inhuman treatment into a new international legal instrument with appropriate enforcement mechanisms. We need not be discouraged by the length of time required to prepare such an instrument. In the meantime, other steps can be taken to create enforcement mechanisms in the absence of binding legal instruments. We suggest that the Commission on Human Rights undertake to monitor, through an appropriate body, compliance with the provisions of the Declaration on Torture. This could be done in much the same way that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination monitors compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by non-signatories. We suggest, as well, that the concept of working groups to investigate violations be examined more fully, with a view to creating a set of guidelines to govern their creation, their terms of reference, and their reporting to the Commission of Human Rights and to the Economic and Social Council. An established set of guidelines would serve to eliminate the procedural difficulties encountered by the most recent working group, and to ensure fair and impartial investigation.

My delegation is convinced that the necessary legal instruments exist to control the practice of torture. What is needed is a rationalization of these instruments and of the procedures they call for. We have noted with interest the decision taken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to develop a body of principles for the protection of the human rights of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment. We consider that this initiative is a valuable step towards such rationalization.

It is often argued, incredibly, that torture is tolerable in certain circumstances, that cruel and inhuman treatment is an inevitable and even justifiable concomitant of strife between and within nations, that inhumanity can be condoned during times of war and insurrection. Canada cannot accept this proposition.

My Government recognizes that extraordinary circumstances sometimes demand extraordinary measures, and that the ideals of peace cannot always be maintained during the realities of war. It understands efforts to provide, in international legal instruments, for temporary derogation from certain rights normally guaranteed in law. But it cannot agree that torture can ever be excused on any grounds. Canada absolutely rejects the doctrine that respect for fundamental human rights is an ideal to be reserved for times of peace and national tranquility.

On the contrary, the test of a society's respect for human rights is its tenacity in defending them in times of its greatest stress. If none of us has always passed this test with perfect marks, it must surely remain our common measure of humanity.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT

The scale of assessment was one of the most important items before the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee. The scale itself is recommended by the Committee on Contributions, but is ultimately voted on by all member states, first in the Fifth Committee and then in the General Assembly. The scale apportions a share of United Nations expenses to each member, according to a complicated formula which incorporates several criteria, the major one being national income. Since the inception of the United Nations 30 years ago, the organization has undergone a considerable change in membership — from a body of predominantly developed nations to one in which the developed states are a numerical minority. Although the scale recommended by the Committee on Contributions has been subjected to considerable scrutiny and debate in the past, it has always been accepted in the best interests of the organization.

The scale is normally revised every three years by the Committee on Contributions, a special body charged with this task by the UN Charter. The guiding principle behind the work of the Committee is "capacity to pay" — that is, wealthier members bear a proportionately larger share of the organization's expenses. The inevitable problem of comparability and timeliness of statistics has rendered the Committee's task a difficult one, and recent international monetary disturbances and economic instability have added to this complexity. At the thirty-first session, for example, a number of states whose national incomes have recently risen dramatically from increased oil revenues were opposed to the size of the proposed increases in their assessments. Many other countries, including Canada, supported the Committee's proposed revision. In the end, late in the session, the Assembly adopted the new scale by consensus for a one-year period, during which a study of criteria of assessment would be made and the minimum level of assessment for those with the lowest "capacity to pay" would be reduced to .01 per cent from the present .02 per cent. Canada's financial contribution under the new scale declines from 3.08 per cent to 2.96 per cent, although Canada will remain the ninth-largest single contributor.

Canada considered that the 1975 Committee report represented an exhaustive effort to assess members fairly and objectively. In the following statement, delivered November 1, 1976, in the Fifth Committee, the Canadian representative, Mr. Charles Lapointe, M.P., outlined the Canadian position:

The importance of the work of the Committee on Contributions cannot be overestimated. Since the first scale of assessment, adopted in 1946, debates on 29 new scales for apportioning the expenses of the organization among member states have illustrated the extraordinary delicacy of the compromise that underlies the scale. It is well known that views on how to apportion expenses differ markedly among members. It is equally well known — and the debates on the scale of contribution amply demonstrate this fact — that, despite reservations, members have accepted scales in the spirit of compromise and in the interest of an orderly method of assessment and sound financial management.

Another fact — no less remarkable — is that the UN method of determining the scale has withstood the test of time. It has survived a change in membership from predominantly developed to predominantly developing countries. There have also been major economic changes and political challenges. Over some 30 years the basic principles adopted in 1946 have proved themselves capable of producing, year after year, scales which, after thorough debate, have received the overwhelming support of the membership. It is also noteworthy that over the years the majority of the Specialized Agencies have come to accept the UN scale as the fairest and most equitable basis for determining their own scales. This situation further underlines the great importance of the UN scale, the durability and validity of the principles upon which it is based, and the unquestioned success of the Committee on Contributions in implementing these principles.

If one examines the underlying reason for the remarkable durability of the present method of assessment, it is undoubtedly to be found in the guiding principle that the expenses should be apportioned broadly according to the capacity to pay. It is this principle that in Fifth Committee debates over the years has found the broadest support.

On instructions from the General Assembly, several factors and considerations have been taken into account in applying the principle. They are listed in Paragraph 4 of the report of the Committee on Contributions. They have provided a measure of relief to many countries and have helped to prevent anomalies due to unexpected economic dislocations from being incorporated in the scale. In retrospect these Assembly directives have added to the strength and the acceptability of the scale; vigilance and prudence are, however, required not to overemphasize these factors, thereby reducing the basic fairness and hence the political support for the scale.

It may be useful at this time to illustrate the importance Canada continues to attach to the capacity-to-pay principle: at the twenty-seventh session my delegation announced that Canada had decided to forego the benefits it would have derived from the *per capita* ceiling principle as a result of the introduction of the 25 percent ceiling. Although in the past Canada and other countries have believed strongly that the *per capita* ceiling principle was necessary to ensure that some countries did not carry an inequitable share of the cost of the UN, Canada at that time found it necessary to reaffirm in a convincing manner its faith in the capacity-to-pay principle. A subsequent examination requested from the Committee on Contributions fully justified the Canadian position. Acting on the Committee on Contributions report, the General Assembly decided to abolish the *per capita* ceiling principle in order to avoid substantial deviations from the basic principle of the capacity to pay.

My delegation recognizes that, in the absence of data on better statistical indicators, the single aggregate measure of national income must continue as the principal criterion to determine the capacity to pay. National income should remain the basic indicator until such time as a universally-acceptable single comprehensive indicator encompassing indicators of income, health, education, employment, industry, trade, technology, infrastructure, etc., can be developed as a substitute. We are advised that an indicator taking into account the factors mentioned cannot be developed at this time. We also note the view of the Committee on Contributions that, despite certain imperfections, national income is the only single indicator which for the present can be statistically compiled for all countries.

The other factors used in determining the scale, including *per capita* income, were basically approved by the General Assembly to avoid maladjustments. An allowance formula has been used to achieve particular adjustments for countries with low *per capita* income. The maximum reduction factor in the allowance formula has been increased from 50 to 60 and now to 70 per cent. The 70 percent level should, in the view of my delegation, certainly not be exceeded (perhaps even reduced) and, in the absence of precise data, it is conceivable that the change from \$1500 to \$1800 in the *per capita* income used in the allowances formula may be too large in the interest of an equitable scale.

Let me now turn to the drastic economic changes noted by the Committee in its two previous reports, which have had a profound impact on the scale. As forecast, the changes have given rise to steep increases as well as steep decrease in several assessments, which, however, reflect economic reality as measured by the capacity to pay. My delegation appreciates the conscientious and exhaustive effort of the Committee to reflect in the assessments fairly and objectively the effects of currency instability and price instability as well as actual change in output. The Committee has had an extremely difficult task. However, given the criteria and the major economic changes in recent years, it is more than doubtful that a better, more equitable assessment could have been devised with the existing ground-rules. My delegation therefore wishes to express its deep appreciation for the thorough and exhaustive work of the Committee on Contributions in devising the new triennial scale. Canada will support the new triennial scale.

Moreover, in the interest of an orderly conduct of financial affairs, my delegation joins with other member states in expressing its full confidence in the Committee on Contributions for having worked diligently and with competence and integrity in applying criteria laid down by the General Assembly. My delegation is also persuaded by the Committee's arguments in favour of a triennial as opposed to a biennial scale. While it appears unrealistic at this point to envisage a more permanent scale, the Committee on Contributions should keep in mind the desirability of extending the life of future scales when the world economic climate stabilizes.

RELOCATION OF CERTAIN UN AGENCIES TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

In 1974, at the twenty-ninth session, the Government of Austria formally offered to provide office accommodation to the United Nations. The available space was to be located in the Donaupark Centre in Vienna, to be completed in 1978-79, and was offered at a token rent. The Donaupark Centre is being built to house the United Nations International Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, two UN bodies already located in temporary headquarters in Vienna. The Austrian offer was made when it was discovered that UNIDO and the IAEA would not be making use of all the facilities in the new Centre. The Fifth Committee welcomed the offer without committing itself to relocating any particular units of the Secretariat.

At the following session, in 1975, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report on the financial, functional and social implications of any specific transfers of personnel from New York or Geneva to new accommodation in Vienna. This report, which proposed a plan of action for a certain number of these moves, was presented to the General Assembly at the thirty-first session. After some negotiation in the Fifth Committee, a consensus was reached which accepted most of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

Canada joined the consensus, but expressed reservations about fully implementing the plan of action without careful review, as well as about the wisdom of transferring some of the particular units slated to move. Canada's point of view was expressed in the following statement, delivered to the Fifth Committee on December 20, 1976, by Mr. Brian Hunter, adviser to the Canadian delegation:

My delegation joins others in expressing its appreciation to the Government of Austria for offering to the United Nations the facilities in the Donaupark Centre in Vienna, which is not only the site of two major organizations of the United Nations system but has also been the host city to many important, historic international conferences. Its capacity to serve as host to agencies and activities of the United Nations system is, therefore, well established. Against this background and in the light of the report of the Secretary-General, my delegation was able to join the consensus on the resolution before us, but would like to make the following observations (which, I hope, will appear reasonable to members of this Committee, to the Austrian Government, and to the Secretary-General). First, let me say that my delegation is willing to support Phase One of the report of the Secretary-General. However, my delegation still has reservations on the specific units designated to move in Phase II and believes that the Committee does not have sufficient information to take a decision in this regard. For that reason, my delegation would have preferred the wording contained in the French and Belgian amendment, and, had that amendment not been withdrawn, we would have voted in favour of it. We are also concerned about the timing and the implementation of the subsequent phases for making use of the facilities in the Centre in Vienna. Our concerns are these:

- a) While we can appreciate the need to specify the precise number of personnel to be transferred to Vienna each year over a period of years, we think the important point is that the formula should be regarded as a guide-line and that the determining factor should be that the selection of those units to be moved clearly fits into a rational, efficient, economic organization of the United Nations system. (To put it in another way, we would be reluctant to see units or offices and personnel moved to Vienna merely for the sake of filling the office space.) The goal should be, indeed must be, to contribute to the more effective management of the United Nations system.
- b) While we have acknowledged, (as I have mentioned), the desirability of filling the Donaupark Centre in Vienna, my delegation considers it important for the reason I have just given, not to tie ourselves so rigidly to a timetable that we create dislocation and disorganization within the system at a time when we are, in fact, attempting to rationalize and streamline the United Nations structure and operations.
- c) The Second Committee has just approved an extension of the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sector of the United Nations System, and on the assumption that the plenary approves the resolution, the recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to the General Assembly next fall. It seems to us that we should at any time be prepared to consider modifications in the proposed pattern for moving United Nations offices to Vienna in the light of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee regarding the reallocation of responsibilities and the possible reallocation of functions and offices within the economic and social sector of the system.

It is for these three reasons that, in supporting this resolution, we do so on the understanding that it should serve: (a) to authorize the Secretary-General to implement Phase One; and (b) to provide guide-lines for further consideration on the subsequent phases and the timetable for its implementation. Inasmuch as the facilities in Vienna for Phase One will not be available until the end of 1978, it should be possible to avoid taking hurried decisions but rather to move forward with the deliberation in the context of our review of the reorganization of the operations of the United Nations system.

In the light of these considerations, we believe that we should now take the necessary steps to implement Phase One of this report but that no further irreversible decision regarding subsequent phases should be taken until we are in a position to reconsider the entire question in the General Assembly. Such reconsideration we believe should take place at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES

The debate on legal questions at the thirty-first session was highlighted by a West German initiative on the serious international problem of hostage-taking.

On September 28, 1976, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Hans Genscher, requested the General Assembly to include an item entitled "The Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages" on the agenda of the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. The West German initiative attracted wide support, including that of Canada, and the question was referred for consideration to the Sixth Committee, which is responsible for legal questions. A resolution establishing an ad hoc committee on the drafting of such a convention was adopted by consensus.

The Canadian statement on this question was delivered on November 29, 1976, by Mr. Erik B. Wang, Director, Legal Operations Division, Department of External Affairs:

My delegation fully supports the initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany for the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages. It is timely for members of the UN to take further steps to combat unlawful acts which have become of pressing concern to the world community. Increasing numbers of innocent people, including men, women and children, have been forcibly detained as hostages in many different parts of the world. Many episodes have ended in violence, injury and death.

Any recitation or listing of hostage-taking incidents around the world in recent years will serve to underline a point which has become increasingly evident: not one of us is out of the reach of the perpetrators of such acts. In fact, it can be said that no continent, no country, no region and no community is immune from the indiscriminate reach of those who, with blatant disregard for human life, callously seek to extort concessions.

In his statement before the General Assembly on September 29 of this year, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, addressing himself to problems of peace and world security, supported the view that we should take further measures in this direction. He stated:

"I therefore support the proposal of my colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany that priority should be given to action against taking hostages, and that international agreement be reached to ensure the punishment of those who engage in such acts wherever they seek refuge."

Perpetrators of acts of hostage-taking are subject to severe penalties under the criminal laws of each and every member state of the United Nations. Unlawful and forcible detention of innocent persons accompanied by the threat or act of murder in order to coerce others is intolerable under each of our respective criminal law systems. Hostage-taking should be equally intolerable and punishable under international law, particularly since the criminal laws of each country are not adequate to deal with situations becoming increasingly prevalent where the perpetrator seizes or kills hostages in one country and seeks refuge in another.

I am not suggesting that international law has been silent on this matter. The laws of war have long since reflected a universal condemnation and prohibition of hostage-taking. Under Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, persons taking no active part in the hostilities are protected persons with respect to whom acts of hostage-taking are prohibited. This prohibition is reiterated in various forms through the convention and particularly in Article 34, which states simply: "The taking of hostages is prohibited." If hostage-taking is prohibited in times of war, is it not evident a fortiori that it should be similar and without qualification prohibited in times of peace?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights proclaim fundamental rights of the individual, including the right of everyone to life, liberty and security. The taking of hostages is in each case a gross infringement of these rights.

The protections and prohibitions set out in these international agreements are not accompanied by any provisions designed to ensure the prosecution and punishment of the individual who violates these norms. Such provisions are to be found in the three conventions which were adopted successively in 1963, 1970 and 1971 against offences in relation to the safety of civil aviation — the so-called aerial-hijacking conventions. These conventions embody the

principle *aut dedere aut punire* (prosecute or extradite) — whereby the offender will be taken into custody and either prosecuted or extradited by the contracting state in whose territory he is found, regardless of where the offence was originally committed. The obligations of contracting states in this regard are set out with particular clarity and force in the two latter conventions, the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation.

It is worth recalling that, just prior to the convening of the Hague Conference in December 1970, the UN General Assembly adopted by overwhelming majority resolution 2645 (XXV) of November 25, 1970 calling for the prosecution or extradition of persons who perpetrate acts of aerial hijacking and declaring “that the exploitation of unlawful seizure of aircraft for the purpose of taking hostages is to be condemned”.

Since most offences under these conventions can also be regarded as acts of hostage-taking in relation to the passengers and crew — in effect, aerial hostage-taking —, the provisions of these conventions are of particular interest and relevance to the present proposal for the drafting of a further convention. I do not at this stage wish to anticipate any future detailed consideration of the drafting of a new convention, but I would like to point to two provisions to be found in virtually identical terms in the Hague and Montreal Conventions. Article 2 of the Hague Convention states:

“Each Contracting State undertakes to make the offence punishable by severe penalties.”

Article 7 provides:

“The Contracting State in the territory of which the alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite him, be obliged without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any ordinary offence of a serious nature under the law of that State.”

These provisions are similarly to be found in Articles 3 and 7 of the Montreal Convention. They lie at the heart of the legal framework established by these two conventions and would, in the view of my delegation, merit careful attention in the elaboration of any further measures for punishment of offenders in respect of related offences.

The same principle, that all states party to the convention either prosecute offenders for their crime or extradite them to other states, is to be found in the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

The point I wish to underline is that these conventions have come into effect with wide, although not universal, acceptance of states in all regions of the world and with varying political orientations. We would hope that further states will ratify these conventions to further extend their respective areas of application to all parts of the globe. But we believe that these conventions have already laid the groundwork or foundations for combating the taking of hostages.

They do, however, leave gaps in categories of cases of hostage-taking not covered under the existing conventions. It is these gaps which we should now seek to fill.

Canada supports the proposal embodied in the draft resolution tabled by the Federal Republic of Germany and co-sponsored by 19 other delegations calling for the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee on the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages. Such a convention, if it is to be effective and if it is to build on the foundations already laid, must be drafted on the basis that persons who perpetrate acts of hostage-taking should be prosecuted or extradited for the purpose of prosecution.

My delegation is unable to accept the amendments proposed by the Libyan Arab Republic. Since hostages are by definition innocent parties caught up in a contest or conflict between the hostage-taker and the other persons upon whom the hostage-taker is pressing his demands, the addition of the word “innocent” before “hostages” is either redundant or, if it adds anything, it creates an unacceptable implication that some hostages may be in some manner “non-innocent”.

As regards the proposal to amend operative Paragraph 3 by deleting the reference to prosecution or extradition we believe this raises very serious questions. The principle that offenders must be brought to justice, either by prosecution in the state where they are found or by extradition to another state for the purpose of prosecution is the essence of the resolution, and it should be clearly stated as the essence of the task of the proposed committee. To delete the reference to this principle would be tantamount to diverting the committee from its main purpose, as we see it or at least, creating considerable uncertainty as to what should be the mandate of the Committee. If there is no agreement on this indispensable ingredient in the mandate of the Committee then, in the view of my delegation, questions would arise as to the utility of proceeding any further. We would therefore urge delegations to support the proposed resolution as tabled.

CONCLUSION OF A WORLD TREATY ON THE NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At the thirty-first session, the Soviet Union's initiative on the non-use of force in international relations took the form of draft treaty, which, in the view of the sponsors, confirmed those principles of the Charter which oblige member states to refrain from the threat or use of force, without narrowing or broadening those principles. Other delegations, including that of Canada, argued that the text contained highly-selective and significant variations and departures from the provisions set out with such clarity and authority in the Charter. The draft treaty therefore failed to draw a consensus, and the item will be re-examined at the thirty-second session.

Mr. Erik Wang delivered the following statement on the legal aspects of the proposed draft treaty to the Sixth Committee on November 23, 1976:

We welcome this opportunity to comment on the legal aspects of the proposal made by the Soviet Union for the conclusion of a "World Treaty on the Non-use of Force in International Relations".

My delegation, along with 35 others, abstained on the resolution proposed by the Soviet Union and adopted by the General Assembly on November 8. We abstained because, as we stated in the First Committee on October 28, we had serious reservations about the utility of such a treaty as a means of strengthening the maintenance of international peace and the prevention of war. As we indicated at that time, there should be no question of the commitment of Canada to the maintenance of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes. This commitment has been expressed and confirmed by Canada in many ways, including a long record of active service in UN peacekeeping forces. The question we have asked ourselves is whether the proposed treaty holds out any prospect of contributing to that goal.

After a careful examination of the draft treaty tabled by the Soviet delegation and published in Document A/31/243 of September 28, 1976, my delegation must state at the outset that our earlier reservations have not been reduced. On the contrary, a legal study of the draft has deepened and strengthened our reservations. These reservations have been further confirmed by statements made by various delegations in the course of the present debate.

Every member state in the UN is committed to the provisions of the UN Charter, which sets the standard of obligations which govern the non-use of force in international relations. Article 2(3) calls upon all members to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, and Article 2(4) sets out the obligations upon members to "refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the UN". The Charter is the standard against which any proposal for reaffirmation or development of international law in this area must be judged.

The sponsors of the present proposal have spoken of their proposal as a confirmation of Charter principles, as a text which neither narrows nor broadens those principles. A close examination of the draft treaty reveals, however, that the text contains significant variations and departures from the provisions set out with such clarity and authority in the Charter. I do not propose to lead the Committee through a detailed textual scrutiny of the draft treaty, particularly since we had yesterday the benefit of the close analysis of the draft by the distinguished representative of Australia. I will only point to a few examples of such variation which raise serious questions and difficulties for my delegation.

The norms contained in Article 2 and other articles of the Charter must be seen as a comprehensive and interrelated legal framework. The present draft offers a restatement or paraphrase of certain of these norms, in a highly selective way. There is no reference in the draft to the principle contained in Article 51 of the Charter concerning the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence. Article 1(3) of the draft provides that: "No consideration may be adduced to justify resort to the threat or use of force in violation of the obligations assured under this Treaty". Not only does this provision depart from the Charter, but it appears to be wholly inconsistent with, and indeed contrary to, Article 51.

Another notable omission from the Soviet draft relates to the Security Council which is not mentioned, but which under Chapter VII of the Charter plays an important role in relation to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. As another example of serious weaknesses in the draft, we would point to Article V, which, apart from other problems, appears to be inconsistent with Article 26 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which reflects the rule *pacta sunt servanda* and states: "Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith". Moreover, the primacy of the obligations of the Charter is established by Article 103.

These and other defects, ambiguities and omissions raise serious questions when a text is tabled in the form of a draft treaty. They would raise serious questions if they were advanced in a less formal instrument, as a resolution or declaration. My delegation has noted the expressed willingness of the sponsors to consider comments and textual suggestions by other delegations. We are bound to ask ourselves, however, what would be the purpose of the end-product which might theoretically emerge from an extensive process of revision? It is essential to avoid any steps which would have the effect of weakening the full authority of the obligations imposed by the UN Charter. If, as the sponsors suggest, we are dealing here with a proposal for "confirmation" of existing principles, it is difficult to see how the terms of the Charter can be improved upon. The real risk is that in restatement or reformulation, these terms will be called into question or eroded; differing interpretations could be placed on similar but divergent language, and opportunities for disputes would be increased. This is not the route my delegation wishes to follow.

In sum, my delegation believes that to the extent that this draft is a restatement of existing principles of international law we consider it redundant. To the extent that it departs from existing norms and breaks new ground, intentionally or not, we would have grave reservations about any weakening of the framework of the UN Charter and other rules of international law binding upon member states.

There already exists a body of international law governing the prohibition of recourse to force in international relations. There is no lack of clarity or authority in these rules, as embodied in the UN Charter. The problem lies in the lack of willingness on the part of the states to honour these rules and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security in their conduct, and not merely in words and exhortations.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHARTER REVIEW AND ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Charter, which was written in 1945, has proved to be a flexible instrument and has been altered only slightly over the years. Where amendments have been made, they have been technical in nature. Changes include an increase in the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in response to the greatly increased membership of the UN itself.

In 1975 the General Assembly set up the Special Committee on Charter Review and on the Strengthening of the Role of the United Nations. During 1976 the Special Committee studied an analytical report on this topic prepared by the Secretary-General, and, at the thirty-first session, the Special Committee's comments on this report were submitted for consideration by the Sixth Committee, which renewed the mandate of the Special Committee. On November 17, 1976, Mr. Maurice Copithorne, Director-General of the Bureau of Legal Affairs of the Department of External Affairs, delivered the following statement to the Sixth Committee:

The debate on Charter review has in many respects reflected the pace of changes that, since the drafting of the Charter, has radically altered relations among states. It is a fact that there has been a shift of focus within this organization towards economic and social issues of pressing international concern. We think, Mr. Chairman, that no one could deny that, during this period of change and ferment, the Charter has proved to be a resilient and forward-looking document. Its flexibility and adaptability has allowed the organization to accommodate itself to a system differing in many key respects from the one which prevailed 30 years ago. It seems very clear to my delegation that the Charter has provided a framework which has allowed and, to a large degree, fostered a significant measure of progress on the fundamental issues for the future of mankind.

However, none of this suggests that an international constitutive instrument such as the Charter should not be susceptible of revision, still less of review. As a living instrument, and a practical document, the Charter should reflect, to the maximum degree possible, the interests of all members large and small. We therefore believe that Charter review is a healthy, indeed an important, process.

I turn now to the current review — that is, the work of the Special Committee whose report is before us. We have studied carefully the great variety of proposals. We believe that we are sensitive to the considerations that have motivated the great majority of these proposals and respect those that have submitted them. However, we are disappointed to note that so little progress was made in identifying areas of consensus that might serve as a basis for the further work of the Committee. Perhaps this should not be surprising, for even a cursory examination of the subject reveals its complexity. It also raises fundamental questions concerning the objectives and the basic role of the organization, as well as the distribution of powers to manage that role. If the Committee is to expedite its work, we would suggest that it single out and study only those proposals which are likely to command widespread support among member states. In our view, the Committee should also make sure that it does not duplicate the work of other committees, such as the Committee of Experts on a New UN Structure for Global Economic Co-operation, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations, and the report of the Special Committee of 31, which have made a number of recommendations which have been already implemented.

For our part, the Canadian delegation believes that, while the Charter is clearly in need of updating in some respects, revisions of such a nature as to constitute a redrafting of the Charter may not be appropriate at this time. While recognizing that its architecture is by no means perfect, we believe the Charter is undeniably working and we would not support efforts that could endanger the basic framework of this organization and impair its effectiveness. We hold the view, therefore, that, at this point in time, the best prospect is to work within the basic structure of the Charter in such a manner that we, the members of the UN, can best enhance its authority and strengthen its ability to adapt to the changing realities of the international community.

In conclusion I wish to reaffirm Canada's commitment to participate in continuing efforts to enhance the role of the United Nations. We shall continue to seek realistic methods to strengthen the foundations of this organization.

For an analysis of the first 30 years of the UN, see John W. Holmes, "Sadder but Wiser: the UN at Thirty," International Perspectives, November/December 1975, Pp. 19-23. Other recent International Perspectives articles of interest are C.V. Svoboda, "Recap of 30th General Assembly: a demonstration of resilience", May/June 1976, Pp. 15-21; "Canada at the United Nations", a series of five articles by various authors, September/October, 1976, Pp. 3-26; and Geoffrey Pearson, "Recap of 31st General Assembly: relative tranquility at last", May/June 1977, Pp. 3-9.

CANADA'S VOTING RECORD AT THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A MAIN COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/1**	Admission of the Republic of Seychelles to membership in the United Nations	21 September 1976	A.W.V.	(Adopted without vote)	
31/3	Observer status for the Commonwealth Secretariat at the UN	18 October 1976	A.W.V.		
31/4	Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte	21 October 1976	102	1	28*
31/6	Policies of <i>Apartheid</i> of the Government of South Africa				
	a) The so-called independent Transkei and other Bantustans	26 October 1976	134*	0	1
	b) United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa	9 November 1976	A.W.V.		
	c) Solidarity with South African political prisoners	9 November 1976	A.W.V.		
	d) Arms embargo against South Africa	9 November 1976	110	8	20*
	e) Relations between Israel and South Africa	9 November 1976	91	20*	28
	f) <i>Apartheid</i> in Sports	9 November 1976	128*	0	12
	g) Program of work of the Special Committee Against <i>Apartheid</i>	9 November 1976	133*	0	8
	h) Economic collaboration with South Africa	9 November 1976	110	6	24*
	i) Situation in South Africa	9 November 1976	106	11*	22
	j) Program of action against <i>apartheid</i>	9 November 1976	105	8	27*
	k) Investments in South Africa	9 November 1976	124	0	16*
31/11	Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency	10 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/12	Question of Cyprus	12 November 1976	94	1	27*
31/13	Co-operation between the UN and the Organization of African Unity	16 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/16	Credentials of representatives to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly				
	Resolution A	23 November 1976	A.W.V.		
	Resolution B	20 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/20	Question of Palestine	24 November 1976	90	16*	30

* Indicates Canada's vote.

** Until 1976, General Assembly resolutions were numbered consecutively, beginning at the first session in 1945. After three decades, the system had become unwieldy, and a new numbering system was adopted for the thirty-first session. Resolutions are still numbered consecutively, but for one session only, and that number is preceded by the session number. Thus, the first resolution adopted at the thirty-first session was 31/1.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/21	Admission of new members to the United Nations	26 November 1976	124*	1	3
31/44	Admission of the People's Republic of Angola to membership in the UN	1 December 1976	116*	0	1
31/60	Appointment of the Secretary-General of the UN	8 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/61	The Situation in the Middle East	9 December 1976	91	11*	29
31/62	Peace Conference on the Middle East	9 December 1976	122*	2	8
31/63	Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/104	Admission of the independent state of Western Samoa to membership in the UN	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/142	One hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama	17 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/143	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence in Colonial Countries and Peoples	17 December 1976	121*	2	8
31/144	Dissemination of Information on Decolonization	17 December 1976	132*	0	2
31/145	International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia	17 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/155	Report of the Security Council	20 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		14			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		18			
Total		32			
Recorded Votes			Yes	No	Abstention
Canada			8	4	6
Negative votes					
31/6 I			Situation in South Africa		108-11(Cda)-22
31/20			Question of Palestine		90-16(Cda)-30
31/61			Situation in Middle East		91-11(Cda)-29
31/6E			Relations between Israel and South Africa		91-20(Cda)-28

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/8	International Co-Operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	8 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/9	Conclusion of a World Treaty on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations	8 November 1976	88	2	31*
31/64	Incendiary and Other Specific Conventional Weapons which may be the Subject of Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use for Humanitarian Reasons	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/65	Chemical and Bacteriological (biological) weapons	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/66	Urgent Need for Cessation of Nuclear and Thermonuclear Tests and Conclusion of a Treaty designed to Achieve a Comprehensive Test Ban	10 December 1976	105*	2	27
31/67	Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 3467 (XXX) Concerning the Signature and Ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)	10 December 1976	119*	0	14
31/68	Effective Measures to Implement the Purposes and Objectives of the Disarmament Decade	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/69	Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/70	Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in all its Aspects	10 December 1976	132*	0	0
31/71	Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone in the Region of the Middle East	10 December 1976	130*	0	1
31/72	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques	10 December 1976	96*	8	30
31/73	Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in South Asia	10 December 1976	91*	2	43

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/74	Prohibition of the Development and Manufacture of New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons	10 December 1976	120*	1	15
31/75	Implementation of the Conclusion of the First Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	10 December 1976	115*	2	19
31/87	Reduction of Military Budgets	14 December 1976	120*	2	11
31/88	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace	14 December 1976	106	0	27*
31/89	Conclusion of a Treaty on the Complete and General Prohibition of Nuclear-Weapon Tests	14 December 1976	95	2	36*
31/90	Strengthening of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament	14 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/91	Non-Interference in Internal Affairs of States	14 December 1976	99	1	11*
31/92	Implementation of the Declaration of the Strengthening of International Security	14 December 1976	95	0	17*
31/189	General and Complete Disarmament	21 December 1976			
	Resolution A		107*	10	11
	Resolution B		A.W.V.		
	Resolution C		95	0	33*
	Resolution D		106*	2	22
31/190	World Disarmament Conference	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		8			
No. of resolutions in recorded vote		17			
Total		25			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		11	0	6	

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/10	Effects of Atomic Radiation	8 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/15	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	23 November 1976			
	a) Assistance to Palestine Refugees		115*	0	2
	b) Assistance to Persons Displaced as a Result of the June 1967 Hostilities		A.W.V.		
	c) Working Group on the Financing of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East		A.W.V.		
	d) Population and Refugees Displaced Since 1967		118*	2	2
	e) Palestine Refugees in the Gaza Strip		118*	2	3
31/105	Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in All Their Aspects	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/106	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories	16 December 1976			
	Resolution A		129*	3	4
	Resolution B		134*	0	2
	Resolution C		100	5	30*
	Resolution D		97	3	36*
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		4			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		7			
Total		11			
Recorded Votes			Yes	No	Abstention
Canada			5	0	2

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/2	Amendments to General Assembly Resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended by Assembly Resolution 2904 (XXVII)				
	Resolution A	29 September 1976	A.W.V.		
	Resolution B	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/14	Conference on International Eco- nomic Co-operation	19 November 1976	99	0	30*
31/17	Assistance to Cape Verde	24 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/42	Assistance to the Comoros	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/43	Assistance to Mozambique	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/107	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/108	United Nations Conference on Decertification	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/109	Habitat: UN Conference on Human Settlements	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/110	Living Conditions of the Palestinian People	16 December 1976	107	2	26*
31/111	Report of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Program on the Work of its Fourth Session	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/112	Institutional Arrangements for International Environmental Co-operation	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/113	Specific Measures to Meet the Need for a Decent Living Environment for the Most Vulnerable Groups of Society	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/114	Collaboration Between the UN and Non-governmental Organizations with Regard to World-wide Inter- communal Co-operation	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/115	UN Audio-visual Information Centre on Human Settlements	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/116	Institutional Arrangements for International Co-operation in the Field of Human Settlements	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/117	United Nations University	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/118	Chair on Non-alignment Within the UN University	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/119	Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/120	Secretariat of the World Food Council	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/121	Report of the World Food Council	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/122	International Fund for Agricultural Development	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/156	Action Program in Favour of Developing Island Countries	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/157	Specific Action in Favour of Land-locked Developing Countries	21 December 1976	120*	0	7
31/158	Debt Problems of Developing Countries	21 December 1976	99	1	31*
31/159	Report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development on its Fourth Session	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/160	Revision of the Lists of States Eligible for Membership in the Industrial Development Board	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/161	Committee on the Drafting of a Constitution for the UN Industrial Development Organization	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/162	Strengthening of Operational Activities in the Field of Indus- trial Development	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/163	Industrial Redeployment in Favour of Developing Countries	21 December 1976	104	1	27*
31/164	Report of the Industrial Develop- ment Board	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/165	Borrowing Authority of the Administrator of the UN Develop- ment Program	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/166	United Nations Volunteers	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/167	Expansion of Basic Services Provided by the UN Children's Fund in Developing Countries	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/168	UN Children's Fund	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/169	International Year of the Child	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/170	United Nations Fund for Population Activities	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/171	Operational Activities for Development	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/172	Assistance to the Drought-stricken Areas of Ethiopia	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/173	Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/174	Ways and Means of Accelerating the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries on a Predictable, Assured and Continuous Basis	21 December 1976	117*	1	18
31/175	Effective Mobilization of Women in Development	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/176	Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/177	UN Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries	21 December 1976	115	0	19*
31/178	Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV) Entitled "International Development Strategy for the Second UN Development Decade", 3202 (S-VI) Entitled "Program of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", 3281 (XXIX) Entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States" and 3362 (S-VII) Entitled "Development and International Economic Co-operation"	21 December 1976	128*	1	8
31/179	UN Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/180	Implementation of the Medium-term and Long-term Recovery and Rehabilitation Program in the Sudano-Sahelian Region	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/181	Recapitalization of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Replenishment of the International Development Association	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/182	Preparations for a New International Development Strategy	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/183	Establishment of a Network for the Exchange of Technological Information	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/184	UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/185	UN Water Conference	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/186	Permanent Sovereignty Over National Resources in the Occupied Arab Territories	21 December 1976	107	2	26*
31/187	Assistance to Sao Tome and Principe	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/188	Assistance to Angola	21 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of Resolutions adopted without a vote		46			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		9			
Total		55			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		3	0	6	

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/33	Adverse Consequences for the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Political, Military, Economic and Other Forms of Assistance Given to Colonial and Racist Regimes in Southern Africa	30 November 1976	97	11	28*
31/34	Importance of the Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-determination and of the Speedy Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the Effective Guarantee and Observance of Human Rights	30 November 1976	109	4	24*

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/35	Report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	30 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/36	Question of the Establishment, in Accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of a Body to which Persons Claiming the Benefit of the Convention may Apply	30 November 1976	117*	9	8
31/37	National Experience in Promoting the Co-operative Movement	30 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/38	National Experience in Achieving Far-reaching Social and Economic Changes for the Purpose of Social Progress	30 November 1976	125	0	9*
31/39	Preservation and Further Development of Cultural Values	30 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/40	Protection and Restitution of Works of Art as Part of the Preservation and Further Development of Cultural Values	30 November 1976	125*	0	12
31/41	Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture	30 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/77	Implementation of the Program for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	13 December 1976	113	1	14*
31/78	World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	13 December 1976	110	2*	16
31/79	Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/80	Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of <i>Apartheid</i>	13 December 1976	99	0	30*
31/81	Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/82	Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/83	Report on the World Social Situation	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/84	World Social Situation	13 December 1976	120*	0	12
31/85	Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Relation to Detention and Imprisonment	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/86	Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	13 December 1976	129*	0	0
31/123	International Year for Disabled Persons	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/124	Protection of Human Rights in Chile	16 December 1976	95*	12	25
31/125	Accession to and Implementation of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/126	Emergency Assistance for South African Refugee Students	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/127	Measures to Improve the Situation and Ensure the Human Rights and Dignity of all Migrant Workers	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/128	Human Rights and Scientific and Technological Developments	16 December 1976	126*	0	8
31/129	Policies and Programs Relating to Youth	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/130	Role of Youth	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/131	UN Volunteers Program	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/132	Channels of Communication with Youth and Youth Organizations	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/133	Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/134	Improvement of the Status and Role of Women in Education	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/135	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/136	UN Decade for Women	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/137	Pledging Conference for the UN Decade for Women	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/138	Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/139	Co-operation and Assistance in the Application and Improvement of Mass Communications for Social Progress and Development	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
OTHER DECISIONS	Postponement of Consideration of Draft Resolution on Protection of Detained Persons	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Freedom of Information	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	United Nations Conference for an International Convention on Adoption Law	16 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		24			
No. of resolutions adopted by vote		12			
Total		36			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		6	1	5	
Negative Vote	31/78	World Conference to Combat Racism		110-2(Cda)-16	

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/7	Activities of Foreign Economic and other Interests which are Impeding the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia and Namibia and in all other Territories under Colonial Domination and Efforts to Eliminate Colonialism, <i>Apartheid</i> and Racial Discrimination in Southern Africa	5 November 1976	93	9	19*
31/29	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories Transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter of the UN	29 November 1976	124*	0	3
31/30	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated with the UN	29 November 1976	120*	0	5

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/31	United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/32	Offers by Member States of Study and Training Facilities for Inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/45	Question of Western Sahara	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/46	Question of the Solomon Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/47	Question of the Gilbert Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/48	Question of Tokelau	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/49	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1 December 1976	102	1	32*
31/50	Question of Belize	1 December 1976	115*	8	15
31/51	Question of the New Hebrides	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/52	Question of Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/53	Question of Timor	1 December 1976	68	20	49*
31/54	Question of the British Virgin Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/55	Question of American Samoa	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/56	Question of Brunei	1 December 1976	120	0	14*
31/57	Question of the United States Virgin Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/58	Question of Guam	1 December 1976	61	22*	42
31/59	Question of French Somaliland	1 December 1976	117	0	19*
31/146	Situation in Namibia Resulting from the Illegal Occupation of the Territory by South Africa	20 December 1976	107	6	12*
31/147	Program of Work of the UN Council for Namibia	20 December 1976	119*	0	4
31/148	Intensification and Co-ordination of UN Actions in Support of Namibia	20 December 1976	118*	0	7
31/149	Action by Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations with Respect to Namibia	20 December 1976	120*	0	7

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/150	Dissemination of Information on Namibia	20 December 1976	123*	0	4
31/151	UN Fund for Namibia	20 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/152	Observer Status for the South West Africa People's Organization	20 December 1976	113	0	13*
31/153	Nationhood Program	20 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/154	Question of Southern Rhodesia	20 December 1976			
	Resolution A		A.W.V.		
	Resolution B		124*	0	7
OTHER DECISIONS	Question of St. Helena	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Question of Tuvalu	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Question of Gibraltar	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Questions of Pitcairn and of Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis- Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent	1 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		14			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		16			
Total		30			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		8	1	7	
Negative Vote	31/38	Question of Guam	61-22(Cda)-42		

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/5	Financing of the UN Emergency Force and the UN Disengagement Observer Force				
	Resolution A	26 October 1976	A.W.V.		
	Resolution B	1 December 1976	112*	2	0
	Resolution C	22 December 1976	113*	2	12
	Resolution D	22 December 1976	112*	2	12
31/22	Financial Reports and Accounts, and Reports of the Board of Auditors	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/23	Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/24	Appointment to Fill Vacancy in the Membership of the Board of Auditors	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/25	Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the UN Administrative Tribunal	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/26	Composition of the Secretariat	29 November 1976	102*	0	5
31/27	Implementation of Personnel Policy Reforms	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/93	Medium-term Plan	14 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/94	Administrative and Budgetary Co-ordination of the UN with the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency	14-December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/95	Scale of Assessments for the Apportionment of the Expenses of the United Nations	14 December 1976			
	Resolution A Resolution B		122* A.W.V.	0	4
31/96	Enlargement of the Committee on Contributions: Amendment to Rule 158 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly	14 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/140	Pattern of Conferences	17 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/141	Report of the International Civil Service Commission	17 December 1976	119*	11	2
31/191	Financial Emergency of the UN	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/192	Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/193	Joint Inspection Unit	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/194	Utilization of Office Accommodation and Conference Facilities at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/195	Expansion of Meeting Rooms and Improvement of Conference Servicing and Delegate Facilities at United Nations Headquarters	22 December 1976	121*	10	0

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/196	Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/197	Investments of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund	22 December 1976	106	1	24*
31/198	Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the Committee on Contributions	22 December 1976			
	Resolution A		A.W.V.		
	Resolution B		119*	12	0
31/199	Confirmation of the Appointments Made by the Secretary-General to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the Investments Committee	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/200	Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the International Civil Service Commission	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/201	Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of the UN Staff Pension Committee	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/202	Establishment of the UN Industrial Development Fund	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/203	General Procedures Governing the Operations of the UN Industrial Development Fund	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/204	Emoluments of the Members of the International Court of Justice	22 December 1976	114*	11	3
31/205	Use of Experts and Consultants in the UN	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/206	Revised Estimate Resulting from the Decisions of the Trade and Development Board Arising from the Conference on Trade and Development at its Fourth Session, Nairobi	22 December 1976	114*	9	8
31/207	Program Budget for the Biennium 1976-1977	22 December 1976			
	Resolution A		119*	10	1
	Resolution B		131*	0	0
	Resolution C		119*	10	1
31/208	Questions Relating to the Program Budget for the Biennium 1976-77	22 December 1976			
	Section I		117*	10	3

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
	Section II		A.W.V.		
	Section III		119*	10	1
	Section IV		A.W.V.		
	Section V		A.W.V.		
	Section VI		A.W.V.		
	Section VII		A.W.V.		
	Section VIII		A.W.V.		
	Section IX		A.W.V.		
OTHER DECISIONS	Amendments to the Staff Rules	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
	Assessment of Non-member States Participating in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea	10 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Review of the Intergovernmental and Expert Machinery Dealing with the Formulation, Review and Approval of Programs and Budgets	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Joint Inspection Unit	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	United Nations Accommodation	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	United Nations Industrial Develop- ment Fund	22 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		29			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		16			
Total		45			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		15	0	1	

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED OF THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/18	United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties	24 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/19	Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts	24 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/28	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	29 November 1976	A.W.V.		
31/76	Implementation by States of the Provisions of the Vienna Conven- tion on Diplomatic Relations of 1961	13 December 1976	92	0	25*

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Votes in the General Assembly		
			For	Against	Abstention
31/97	Report of the International Law Commission	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/98	Arbitration Rules of the UN Commission on International Trade Law	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/99	Report of the UN Commission on International Trade Law	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/100	UN Conference on the Carriage of Goods by Sea	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/101	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
31/102	Measures to Prevent International Terrorism which Endangers or Takes Innocent Human Lives or Jeopardizes Fundamental Freedoms, and Study of the Underlying Causes of those Forms of Terrorism and Acts of Violence which Lie in Misery, Frustration, Grievance and Despair and which Cause some People to Sacrifice Human Lives, Including their Own, in an Attempt to Effect Radical Changes	15 December 1976	100	9*	27
31/103	Drafting of an International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages	15 December 1976	A.W.V.		
OTHER DECISIONS	Resolutions Adopted by the UN Conference on the Representation of States in their Relation with International Organizations	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Consolidation and Progressive Evolution of the Norms and Principles of International Economic Development Law	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
	Conclusion of a World Treaty on the Non-use of Force in International Relations	13 December 1976	A.W.V.		
No. of resolutions adopted without a vote		9			
No. of resolutions adopted in recorded vote		2			
Total		11			
Recorded Votes		Yes	No	Abstention	
Canada		0	1	1	
Negative Vote	31/102	Mesures to Prevent Terrorism		100-9(Cda)-27	

SUMMARY: In total, 245 resolutions were adopted by the thirty-first regular session of the UNGA. Of these, 148 resolutions (60 per cent) were adopted by consensus or acclamation, and 97 resolutions (40 per cent) were adopted after recorded votes. In the 97 recorded votes, Canada voted "yes" 56 times (57.73 per cent), "no" seven times (7.22 per cent) and abstained 34 times (35.05 per cent). Canada was obliged to vote against only 2.85 per cent of the 245 resolutions adopted and abstained 13.88 per cent of the time.

PART II

APPENDICES

THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Following two months of discussions in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, the representatives of 50 states, including Canada, signed the Charter of the United Nations on June 26, 1945. The Canadian role during the Conference had been an extremely active one and many Canadian proposals were incorporated in the Charter, which came into effect on October 24, 1945.

The Preamble to the Charter expresses the fundamental aims of the 51 original members and those which have been admitted to the United Nations since October, 1945:

We the peoples of the United Nations determined

To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

and for these ends

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

To employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

THE INSTRUMENTS OF OFFICIAL CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

THE BUREAU OF UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

The Department of External Affairs — Ottawa

The Bureau of United Nations Affairs (UNP) is charged primarily with the management of Canadian policy with respect to the activities of the United Nations system of organizations. It is a basic premise of Canadian policy to continue actively to strengthen the United Nations system as an effective instrument for international co-operation and, in particular, to improve the capacity of the United Nations to discharge its Charter responsibilities. In pursuing these objectives, the Bureau consults clearly with other bureaux and government departments and agencies.

The United Nations Institutional and Social Affairs Division (UNS) has as its field of responsibility the co-ordination of Canadian policy and activity as regards ECOSOC and its subsidiary organs, the special bodies of the United Nations, and the Specialized Agencies. Human rights matters and United Nations issues related to social development fall within the purview of this division. In addition, the division is responsible for examining administrative, financial and procedural questions.

The United Nations Political Affairs Division (UNO) is responsible for assessing the political implications of developments in the Security Council, the General Assembly, and other United Nations organizations, and co-ordinating Canadian policy and activity in these areas. The division is also responsible for the placement of Canadians in international organizations.

Through direction, co-ordination and liaison, both divisions attempt to maximize the opportunities offered in the United Nations and related institutions for the advancement of a broad range of Canadian national goals.

THE CANADIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York

Almost all members of the UN, including Canada, have found it necessary to maintain continuing representation at the seat of the United Nations.

The first Canadian Permanent Mission in New York was established in January 1948, with the appointment of General McNaughton as the first Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The following individuals have served in the capacity of Permanent Representative:

Permanent Representatives:	Period
(Acting) General McNaughton	January 48 — December 49
J.W. Holmes	January 50 — June 50
R.G. Riddell	June 50 — June 51
David M. Johnson	November 51 — August 55
R.A. MacKay	August 55 — November 57
C.S.A. Ritchie	January 58 — February 62
P. Tremblay	July 62 — June 66
G. Ignatieff	July 66 — February 69
Yvon Beaulne	February 69 — June 72
Saul F. Rae	July 72 — July 76
William H. Barton	August 76 —

THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The delegation of a Member shall consist of not more than five representatives, and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation (Rule 25 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation (Rule 26 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

In practice, no distinction is made between a delegate and alternate delegate (representative).

The Canadian delegation to any session of the United Nations General Assembly is appointed by Cabinet upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Normally, the delegation will consist of ten members: five representatives and five alternates. The chairman of the delegation is usually the SSEA and the vice-chairman the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Individual members of the delegation are assigned responsibilities for one or other of the seven main committees. Invariably, the SSEA will return to Ottawa for protracted periods in the course of the session, during which time direction of the delegation devolves upon the vice-chairman.

In addition to the delegates themselves, a number of advisers are named, at least one for each of the seven main committees. The Permanent Mission in New York and the Bureau of United Nations Affairs in Ottawa provide most of the advisers assigned to the delegation but officers from other missions, other divisions in Ottawa, and other government departments may also be appointed (often for short periods to cope with specific agenda items).

OBSERVERS ON THE CANADIAN DELEGATION

For a number of years, it has been the practice of the Canadian Government to appoint representatives from the various national political parties as parliamentary observers to sessions of the General Assembly. Senators and Members of Parliament have been selected in rough accordance with the number of seats held by each party in the respective legislative chambers.

On occasion, private citizens with a professional concern for United Nations affairs have also been appointed as observers in one or another capacity.

It is believed that as an individual becomes more aware of the potentialities and limitations of the United Nations system, so his ability to identify and evaluate possible courses of action for the resolution of international problems is enhanced. Also, while most Parliamentarians will be familiar with the problems under discussion in the United Nations, experience as an observer may contribute to a deeper understanding of specific issues troubling the world community and the way in which these issues can affect Canada.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

MEMBERSHIP

The General Assembly is composed of all 147 member states of the United Nations, each of which is entitled to have five representatives seated in the Assembly Chamber.

Member states

	Date of admission to the UN		Date of admission to the UN
Afghanistan	19/11/46	* Ecuador	
Albania	14/12/55	Egypt	24/10/45
Algeria	8/10/62	* El Salvador	
Angola	1/12/76	Equatorial Guinea	12/11/68
* Argentina		* Ethiopia	
* Australia			
Austria	14/12/55	Fiji	13/10/70
		Finland	14/12/55
Bahamas	18/9/73	* France	
Bahrain	21/9/71		
Bangladesh	17/9/74	Gabon	20/9/60
Barbados	9/12/66	Gambia	21/9/65
* Belgium		German Democratic Republic	18/9/73
Benin	20/9/66	Germany, Federal Republic of	18/9/73
Bhutan	21/9/71	Ghana	8/3/57
* Bolivia		* Greece	
Botswana	17/10/66	Grenada	17/9/74
* Brazil		* Guatemala	
Bulgaria	14/12/55	Guinea	12/12/58
Burma	19/4/48	Guinea-Bissau	17/9/74
Burundi	18/9/72	Guyana	20/9/66
* Byelorussian S.S.R.			
		* Haiti	
* Canada		* Honduras	
Cape Verde	16/9/75	Hungary	14/12/55
Central African Republic	20/9/60		
Chad	20/9/60	Iceland	19/11/46
* Chile		* India	
* China		Indonesia	28/9/50
* Colombia		* Iran	
Comoros	12/11/75	* Iraq	
Congo	20/9/60	Ireland	14/12/55
* Costa Rica		Israel	11/5/49
* Cuba		Italy	14/12/55
Cyprus	20/9/60	Ivory Coast	20/9/60
* Czechoslovakia			
		Jamaica	18/9/62
Democratic Kampuchea	14/12/55	Japan	18/12/56
Democratic Yemen	14/12/55	Jordan	14/12/55
* Denmark			
* Dominican Republic		Kenya	16/8/63
		Kuwait	14/4/63

* Original members, e.g. members which participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945 or had previously signed the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, and which signed and ratified the Charter on June 26, 1945.

Member states

	Date of admission to the UN		Date of admission to the UN
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14/12/55	Spain	14/12/55
* Lebanon		Sri Lanka	14/12/55
Lesotho	17/10/70	Sudan	12/11/56
* Liberia		Surinam	4/12/75
Libyan Arab Republic	14/12/55	Swaziland	24/9/58
* Luxembourg		Sweden	19/11/46
		* Syrian Arab Republic	
Madagascar	20/9/60		
Malawi	1/12/64	Thailand	16/12/46
Malaysia	17/9/57	Togo	20/9/60
Maldives	21/9/65	Trinidad and Tobago	18/9/62
Mali	28/9/60	Tunisia	12/11/56
Malta	1/12/64	* Turkey	
Mauritania	27/10/61		
Mauritius	24/4/68	Uganda	19/10/62
* Mexico		* Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	
Mongolia	27/10/61	* Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	
Morocco	12/11/56	United Arab Emirates	9/12/72
Mozambique	16/9/75	* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
		United Republic of Cameroon	20/9/60
Nepal	14/12/55	* United Republic of Tanzania	
* Netherlands		* United States of America	
* New Zealand		Upper Volta	20/9/60
* Nicaragua		* Uruguay	
Niger	20/9/60		
Nigeria	7/10/60	* Venezuela	
* Norway			
		Yemen	30/9/47
Oman	30/9/71	* Yugoslavia	
Pakistan	30/9/60	Zaire	39/9/60
* Panama		Zambia	1/12/64
Papua New Guinea	10/10/75		
* Paraguay			
* Peru			
* Philippines			
* Poland			
Portugal	14/12/55		
Qatar	21/9/71		
Romania	14/12/55		
Rwanda	18/9/62		
Samoa	15/12/76		
Sao Tome and Principe	16/9/75		
* Saudi Arabia			
Senegal	28/9/60		
Seychelles	21/9/76		
Sierra Leone	27/9/61		
Singapore	21/9/65		
Somalia	20/9/60		
* South Africa			

Observers

Observer status is not provided for in the UN Charter. Over the years, however, the Secretary-General has granted such a status to non-member states which have had some form of association with the UN system, e.g. membership in the Specialized Agencies. Seven countries currently maintain observer missions in New York: Switzerland, Monaco, the Holy See, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Through special resolutions, the General Assembly has also granted observer status to six associations of states: the OAS, the Arab League, the OAU, the EEC, the COMECON and the Islamic Conference. The Palestine Liberation Organization was also granted observer status by the General Assembly in 1974. At the thirty-first session, the General Assembly agreed to the application of the Commonwealth Secretariat for observer status, which Canada co-sponsored. Observer status was also granted to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

UNITED NATIONS GROUPINGS

Regional groups*

PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Britain China	France U.S.S.R.	United States
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WESTERN EUROPE (and other States) **

Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Iceland	Norway
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Canada	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malta	Turkey
Germany, Federal Republic of	Netherlands	

EASTERN EUROPE

Albania	German Democratic Republic	Ukrainian S.S.R.
Bulgaria	Hungary	Yugoslavia
Byelorussian S.S.R.	Poland	
Czechoslovakia	Romania	

AFRICA AND ASIA

AFRICA

Algeria	Botswana	Central African Republic
Angola	Burundi	Chad
Benin	Cape Verde	Comoros

* These groups are unofficial and have been established to take account of the purposes of resolutions 1990 and 1991 of the XVIIIth session of the General Assembly.

** France and Britain are members of the WEO group but the United States does not participate. In regional meetings of various committees, particularly the Second and Fifth Committee, both the U.S. and Japan attend WEO meetings. For electoral purposes to subsidiary bodies (mostly economic and social) observers are considered part of WEO group and occupy seats allocated to WEO.

AFRICA AND ASIA

AFRICA (continued)

Congo
Egypt
Ethiopia
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya

Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sao Tome and
Principe
Senegal
Seychelles

Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United Republic of Cameroon
United Republic of Tanzania
Upper Volta
Zaire
Zambia

ASIA

Afghanistan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Burma
Bhutan
Cyprus
Democratic Kampuchea
Democratic Yemen
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq

Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Lebanon
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Nepal
Oman
Pakistan

Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Qatar
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba

Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Grenada
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica

Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Surinam
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Non-aligned countries

The following participated at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1976:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, PLO, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Maldives, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta, Vietnam (Socialist Republic of), Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen (PDR), Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Observers:

Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, South Africa (ANC and PAC), Namibia (SWAPO), Djibouti (FLCS and MLD), Puerto Rico (Socialist Party of), United Nations Organization, OAU, Arab League, Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, Islamic Conference, Zimbabwe (ANC).

Guests:

Austria, Finland, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland.

The Conference granted a special status to Belize, including the right to address the summit.

Commonwealth countries

Australia (1901)*, Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966), Botswana (1966), Britain, Canada (1867), Cyprus (1961), Fiji (1970), Gambia (1965), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1957), Malta (1964), Mauritius (1968), Nauru (1968)**, New Zealand (1907), Nigeria (1960), Papua-New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Sri Lanka (1948), Swaziland (1968), Tanzania (1961), Togo (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Uganda (1962), Western Samoa (1970), Zambia (1964).

* *Date of membership*

** *Nauru is an associated member of the Commonwealth.*

"Group of 77"

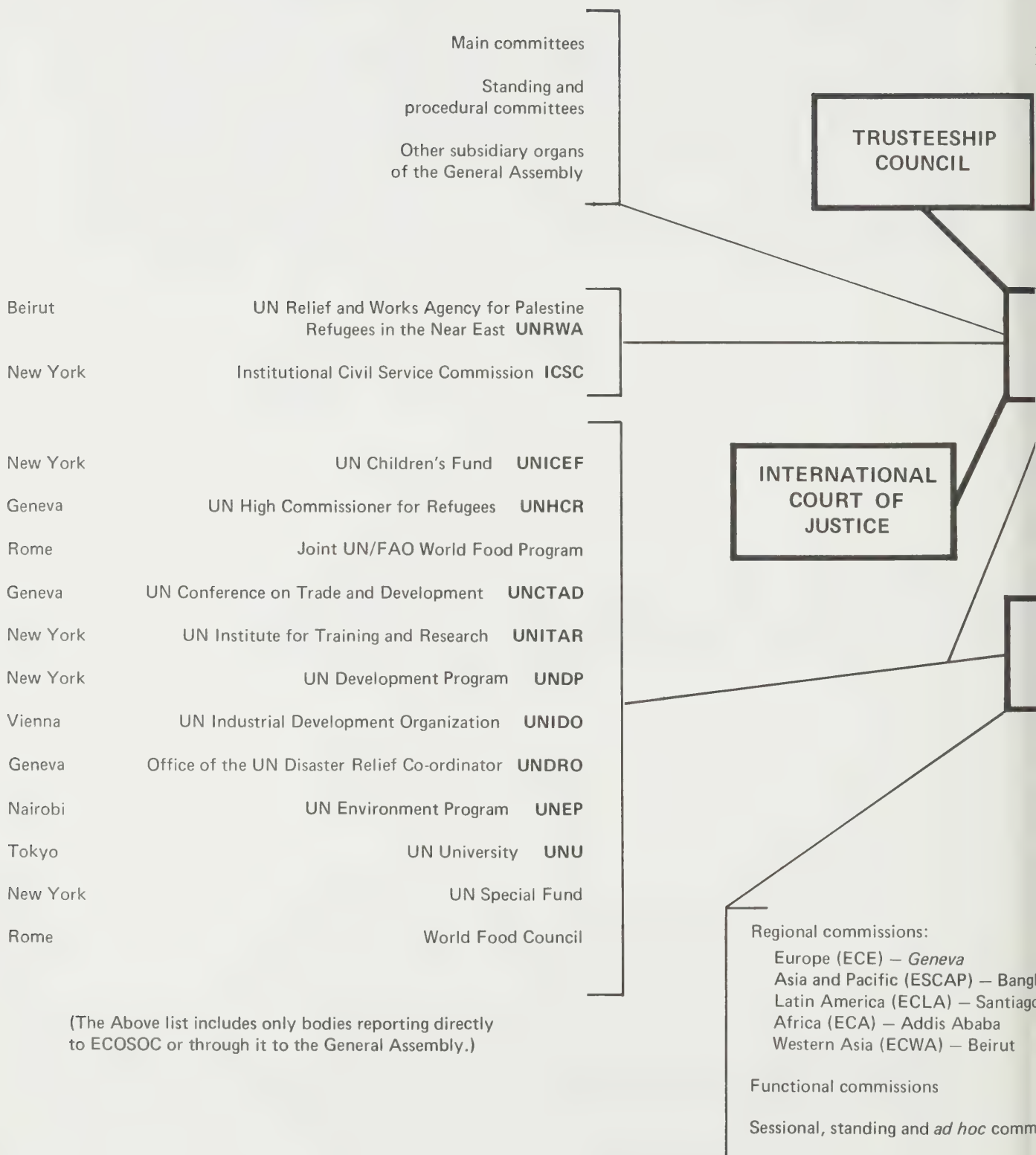
Below are listed those generally considered to be members of the "Group of 77"*** including those governments which signed the Joint Declaration of Developing Countries at the conclusion of the First United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva in 1964:

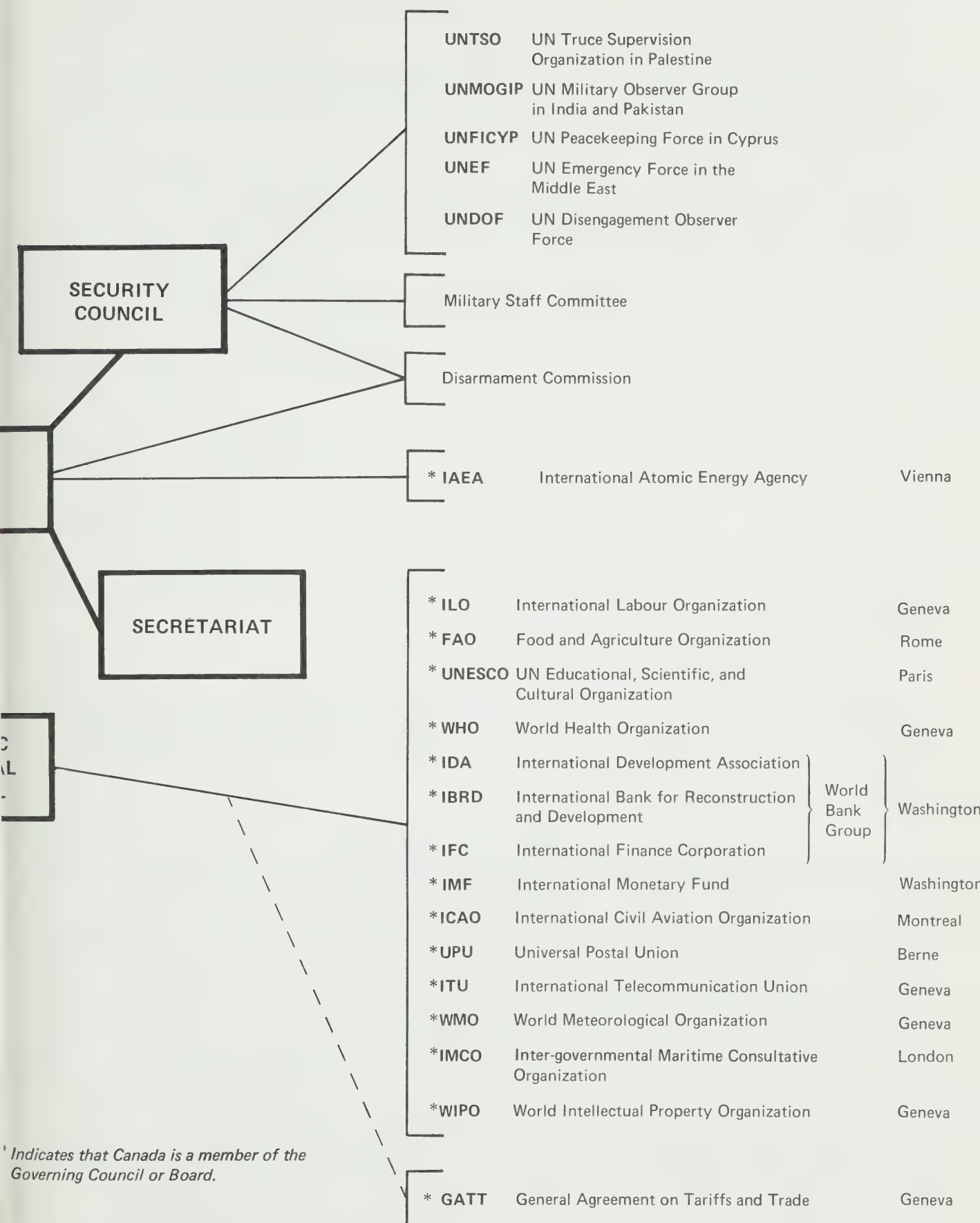
Afghanistan*, Algeria*, Angola, Argentina*, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia*, Botswana, Brazil*, Burma*, Burundi*, Cameroon*, Cape Verde, Central African Republic*, Chad*, Chile*, Colombia*, Comoros, Congo*, Costa Rica*, Cuba, Cyprus*, Democratic Kampuchea, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador*, Egypt*, El Salvador*, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia*, Fiji, Gabon*, Gambia, Ghana*, Grenada, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras*, India*, Indonesia*, Iran*, Iraq*, Ivory Coast, Jamaica*, Jordan*, Kenya*, Kuwait*, Laos*, Lebanon*, Lesotho, Liberia*, Libyan Arab Republic*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Malaysia*, Maldives, Mali*, Malta, Mauritania*, Mauritius, Mexico*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Nepal*, Nicaragua*, Niger*, Nigeria*, Oman, Pakistan*, Panama*, Paraguay*, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru*, Philippines*, PLO, Qatar, Republic of Korea*, Romania, Rwanda*, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal*, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Singapore, Somalia*, Sudan*, Sri Lanka*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Swaziland, Thailand*, Togo*, Trinidad and Tobago*, Tunisia*, Uganda*, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania*, Upper Volta*, Uruguay*, Venezuela*, Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)*, Yemen*, Yugoslavia*, Zaire*, Zambia.

* *Original signers of the Declaration*

** *There are now 112 developing countries in the "Group of 77" whose name arose from the fact that 77 Governments signed the Declaration.*

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM





THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Its function

The General Assembly is the plenary organ of the United Nations and comprises representatives of all member countries.

The Assembly's formal functions are:

To consider and make recommendations on the principles of international co-operation in the maintenance of peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments;

To discuss any problem affecting peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;

To discuss and, with the same exception, to make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;

To initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political co-operation, the development of international law and its codification, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;

To receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations;

To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situations regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;

To supervise, through the Trusteeship Council, the execution of the trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic;

To elect the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, those members of the Trusteeship Council that are elected; to take part with the Security Council in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice; and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General; to elect members of the Economic and Social Council. At present, the Council comprises 54 members.

The President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is presided over by the President, who is elected at the start of each session and holds office until its close. His general powers are to declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, direct discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of the rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. In the election of the President, due regard is had for equitable geographical rotation of the office.*

The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

The General Assembly also elects seventeen Vice-Presidents. If the President finds it necessary to be absent during the whole or part of a meeting, he appoints one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

In 1963, the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents would be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Seven from the Afro-Asian group
- (b) One from the East European group
- (c) Three from the Latin American group
- (d) Two from the Western European and Other Group (which includes Canada)
- (e) Five from the permanent members of the Security Council.

* *The election of the President has the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents from the region from which the President is elected.*

The main committees

The General Assembly deals with most of its work through seven main committees on which all members have the right to be represented. Though each member may be represented by only one person on each committee, each may assign advisers and experts to these committees. Upon the designation of the chairman of each delegation, such advisers and experts may act as members of the committee. Quorum is one-quarter of the members of each committee, but the presence of a majority of the members is required for a question to be put to the vote. Decision is by majority.

(See Rules 98-134 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)

The seven chairmen of the main committees are elected on the following pattern:

- (a) three from the Afro-Asian group
- (b) one from the East European group
- (c) one from the Latin American group
- (d) one from the Western European and Other Group
- (e) one to rotate every alternate year among representatives of groups (c) and (d).

The main committees are as follows:

FIRST COMMITTEE	— Political and Security Committee (including the regulation of armaments)
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE	— Special Political Committee (political questions not discussed by the First Committee)
SECOND COMMITTEE	— Economic and Financial Committee
THIRD COMMITTEE	— Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee
FOURTH COMMITTEE	— Trusteeship Committee (including non-self governing territories)
FIFTH COMMITTEE	— Administrative and Budgetary Committee
SIXTH COMMITTEE	— Legal Committee

The General Assembly, as a rule, refers all questions on its agenda to one of the main committees, to a joint committee, or to an *ad hoc* committee established to consider the question. These committees then submit proposals for approval to a plenary meeting of the Assembly. Questions not referred to a main committee are dealt with by the Assembly itself in plenary meetings.

Other bodies

In addition to the main committees, the General Assembly is assisted mainly by the following bodies:

- (1) *The General Committee*, which is composed of the President, 17 Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the chairmen of the seven main committees, is a kind of steering group which meets during the first week of the session to recommend the inclusion of items in the agenda, the allocation of an agenda item to committee, and to supervise the smooth running of the Assembly's work.
- (2) *The Credentials Committee*, appointed by the President at each session, verifies the credentials of the representatives (both the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. traditionally have been members).
- (3) *The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions* provides expert examination of the UN budget.
- (4) *The Committee on Contributions* advises the General Assembly on the apportionment of the expenses of the organization among the members.
- (5) *The Committee on Conferences* advises the General Assembly on the program of conference and acts on behalf of the General Assembly between sessions.

Subsidiary and *ad hoc* bodies are set up as necessary.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITS PRIMARY ORGANS

MAIN COMMITTEES

- FIRST COMMITTEE
- SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
- SECOND COMMITTEE
- THIRD COMMITTEE
- FOURTH COMMITTEE
- FIFTH COMMITTEE
- SIXTH COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL COMMITTEES

- GENERAL COMMITTEE
- CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ACABQ – ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS
- COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
- COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

Voting

Voting on *important questions*, such as recommendations on peace and security, election of members to the main organs, admission, suspension and expulsion of members, trusteeship questions and budgetary matters, is by two-thirds majority.

Voting on *other questions* is by simple majority.

Each member of the General Assembly has one vote.

In determining two-thirds or simple majorities, only "yes" and "no" votes are counted, not abstentions. However, in UN practice an abstention has come to be a respected and widely-used method of indicating a government's position on issues on which a variety of conflicting factors come into play and where a simple "yes" or "no" vote would not be an accurate reflection of the attitude of a government. Quite often explanations of a vote are made before or after the vote.

The General Assembly session

The General Assembly meets once a year in regular session for about three months, commencing on the third Tuesday in September. Special sessions may also be convened at the request of the Security Council, a majority of the UN members, or one member if the majority of members concur. An emergency special session may also be called within 24 hours of a request by the Security Council on the vote of any nine members of the Council, by a majority of the UN members, or by one member if the majority concur.

Sessions are opened by the President of the previous session (or the chairman of his country's delegation) and the first task on the agenda, after the appointment of the Credentials Committee, is the election of a new President for the next 12 months. The convention is firmly established that he should not be a representative of a great power. The President is elected by secret ballot, but normally private arrangements are made before the session opens to find a candidate for whom an impressive majority of the votes can be mustered.

The President's powers are limited, but able officials have done a good deal through their personal influence to smooth the work of a session and maintain the interests of the organization against the sectional pressures of the membership.

At the side of the new President will sit the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Under-Secretary General for Assembly Affairs who, in his capacity as Secretary of the General Assembly, will act as would a parliamentary clerk to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Following the election of Vice-Presidents and committee chairmen (which are the next items on the agenda), the Secretary-General proceeds to "notify" the General Assembly of "any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council".

After the adoption of the agenda itself, there follows the general debate. This "debate" will often last more than three weeks, and it is the occasion for nearly all member states to present the principle policy objectives of their governments in the form of a *tour d'horizon* of significant world affairs.

The general debate is followed by reports from the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These are followed in turn by the elections of members to various UN councils, boards and commissions whenever such elections are due.

All the remaining agenda items are related to specific issues. Some have become very familiar over the years, and are carried over from one year to the next. Others evidence the UN's continuing concern for tackling current problems and are added to the agenda at the request of the Secretary-General, a principal organ of the UN, or a member state.

The Security Council

The Security Council is the main UN organ responsible for enforcement of peace and security. It is composed of 15 members; five of them are permanent members each with a veto power. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years and, according to the Charter, the criteria for election are based on "due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution".

Canada was a member of the Security Council in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68. Canada was elected once again to the Council for 1977 and 1978 at the elections held during the thirty-first UN General Assembly. The membership picture for the next biennium, so far as it can be determined now, is as follows:

	1977	1978
Permanent members	USA USSR Britain France China	USA USSR Britain France China
Africa	Benin Mauritius Libya	— Mauritius —
Asia	Pakistan India	— India
Latin America	Panama Venezuela	— Venezuela
Western Europe and others	Canada West Germany	Canada West Germany
Eastern Europeans	Romania	—

LIST OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF SPECIAL BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Waldheim, Kurt (Austria)	Secretary-General of the UN
Equivalent ranks — special bodies of the United Nations	
Corea, Gamani (Sri Lanka)	Secretary-General of Conference on Trade and Development
Labouisse, Henry R. (U.S.A.)	Executive Director of UNICEF
Khan, Prince Sadruddin Aga (Iran)	High Commissioner for Refugees
Rennie, Sir John (Britain)	Commissioner General for UNRWA
Morse, Bradford (U.S.A.)	Administrator of UNDP
Nicol, Davidson (Sierra Leone)	Executive Director for UNITAR
Khane, Abderrahmane (Algeria)	Executive Director for UNIDO
Tolba, Dr. Mostafa (Egypt)	Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program

Specialized Agencies, IAEA and GATT

Blanchard, Francis (France)	Director-General of ILO
Saouma, Edouard (Lebanon)	Director-General of FAO
M'Bow, Amadou M. (Senegal)	Director-General of UNESCO
Mahler, Halfdan (Denmark)	Director-General of WHO
McNamara Robt. S. (U.S.A.)	President of IBRD and IFC
Witteveen, H. Johannes (Netherlands)	Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director of IMF
Lambert, Mr. Yves (France)	Secretary-General of ICAO
Sobhi, Mohamed Ibrahim (Egypt)	Director-General of UPU
Mili, Mohamed (Tunisia)	Secretary-General of ITU
Davies, David A. (Britain)	Secretary-General of WMO
Srivastava, C.P. (India)	Secretary-General of IMCO
Bogsch, Arpad (U.S.A.)	Director-General of WIPO

IAEA

The statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) entered into force on July 29, 1957. It is not a Specialized Agency, but is an independent intergovernmental organization under the aegis of the United Nations. The purpose of the Agency, as defined in its statute, is "to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world". Its Director-General is Sigvard Eklund (Sweden).

GATT

Formally, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is an interim step on the road to a more comprehensive International Trade Organization. In practice, however, it has existed for almost 30 years as a virtually autonomous body, administered by separate secretariat and governed by the contracting parties to the Agreement, of which Canada is one. At present, 84 states are members of the GATT and major multilateral trade negotiations have traditionally taken place under its auspices. Its Director-General is Olivier Long (Switzerland).

CANADA IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

CANADA'S POLICIES AND GOALS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

As the activities of the UN touch many if not all of Canada's national objectives and policies, Canada regards the UN as an important instrument in trying to achieve these objectives and policies in their international context. Since the foreign policy review, Canadian activities in the UN system have emphasized the themes of economic growth, social justice, quality of life and peace and security.

Central to the Canadian approach is the belief that Canada should actively work to help make the UN an effective means of developing international co-operation. Equally, Canada thinks it important to help improve the capacity of the UN to carry out its Charter responsibilities.

Within the UN, Canada has focused on the following objectives, a detailed description of which is found in *Foreign Policy for Canadians: United Nations* (published in 1970):

- (1) contributing to social and economic development;
- (2) working to stop the arms race;
- (3) promoting peacekeeping and peace-making through the United Nations;
- (4) reconciling Canadian objectives in Southern Africa;
- (5) taking measures to prevent further deterioration in the human environment;
- (6) promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of satellite systems;
- (7) promoting international co-operation in the use of the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- (8) promoting observance of human rights, including adherence to and respect for various UN conventions;
- (9) contributing to the progressive development and codification of international law;
- (10) projecting Canada as a bilingual country within the United Nations context;
- (11) contributing to the institutional development of the UN as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Since these objectives were formulated, progress has been made towards achieving many of them, and Canadian goals have become more clearly defined with respect, for example, to the achievement of racial equality in Southern Africa and the negotiations for a revised law of the sea.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM — 1960-1976

Year*	Canada's contribution to UN regular budget (\$000 Cdn)	Percent assessment
1960	1,536	3.11
1961	1,860	3.11
1962	2,181	3.12
1963	2,356	3.12
1964	3,115	3.12
1965	2,774	3.17
1966	3,481	3.17
1967	3,588	3.17
1968	3,795	3.02
1969	4,049	3.02
1970	4,557	3.02
1971	4,891	3.08
1972	5,490	3.08
1973	5,770	3.08
1974	7,169	3.18
1975	8,838	3.18
1976	9,856	3.18
1977	9,593	2.96

* Fiscal year ends on March 31.;

Regular budget of the United Nations

The thirtieth session of the General Assembly voted appropriation totalling \$745,813,000 (U.S.) for the biennial fiscal period 1976-1977. The anticipated income for the biennium, apart from member country contributions, is \$118,292,000 (U.S.). The General Assembly assessed member states an amount totalling \$338,035,100 (U.S.) to finance expenses to be incurred during 1977.

Scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The new scale of assessments for 1977 results from a decision taken at the thirty-first General Assembly to adopt a new scale for one year only, during which time a review of criteria for payment would take place, and a new scale would be drawn up with the minimum assessment reduced to .01 per cent. The scale of assessments of the member states' contributions to the UN budget for the financial year are as follows (listed in order of magnitude):

U.S.A.	25.00 per cent
U.S.S.R.	11.33 per cent
Japan	8.66 per cent
Federal Republic of Germany	7.74 per cent
France	5.66 per cent
China	5.50 per cent
Britain	4.44 per cent
Italy	3.30 per cent
Canada	2.96 per cent

10 member states	1.00 to 2.00 per cent each
41 member states	0.03 to 1.00 per cent each
81 member states	0.02 (floor)

Agencies related to the United Nations

		1976 Budget (\$U.S.)	Canada's assessment (per cent)	Approx. No. of Staff
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency * Vienna	37,002,000	3.29	1,000
ILO	International Labour Organization * Geneva	90,603,000	3.36	3,000
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization * Rome	87,174,000	4.05	6,000
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization * Paris	104,144,000	3.15	3,500
WHO	World Health Organization * Geneva	153,436,000	2.67	5,000

		1976 Budget (\$U.S.)	Canada's assessment (per cent)	Approx. no. of staff
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development * Washington, D.C.	185,500,000**		4,350
IFC	International Finance Corporation * Washington, D.C.	11,600,000**		236
IDA	International Development Association * Washington, D.C.	(Same officers and staff as IBRD)		
IMF	International Monetary Fund * Washington, D.C.	52,100,000**		1,500
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization * Montreal	18,101,000	3.31	900
UPU	Universal Postal Union * Bern	5,287,000	2.46	200
ITU	International Telecommuni- cation Union * Geneva	23,695,000	4.32	850
WMO	World Meteorological Organization * Geneva	11,304,000	2.56	350
IMCO	Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization * London	4,648,000	.89	150
GATT	General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade * Geneva	13,678,160**		200
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization * Geneva	7,591,000	4.35	185

* *Headquarters location*

** *Budget for FY 1975-76.*

Canada's financial contributions to the United Nations system (\$000 Canadian)*

	Financial Year ending March 31/76	Financial Year ending March 31 /75	Total 1945-1976
A. UN regular budget	9,856	8,838	91,857
B. Peacekeeping			
UNFICYP	1,930	3,853	27,812
UNEF II	4,620	2,803	8,377
C. Social and economic programs			
UNDP	24,500	22,200	161,071
UNHCR	600	550	39,332
UNICEF	3,500	2,500	33,875
UNRWA**	1,350	1,150	32,753
UNITAR	60	60	660
UNETPSA	175	175	649
WFP**	10,000	3,739	141,252
UNFPA	3,500	2,500	13,052
Committee on Racial Discrimination	3	2	13
Trust Fund for South Africa	10	10	60
Fund for Drug Abuse Control	200	200	950
UN Voluntary Fund for Environment	—	—	1,004
D. Specialized Agencies and IAEA			
ILO	2,761	1,497	19,567
FAO	3,321	2,141	25,678
WHO	3,676	1,395	33,149
UNESCO	2,491	2,690	22,617
ICAO	443	424	6,599
IMCO	42	27	299
ITU	690	503	4,791
WMO	243	178	1,389
UPU	130	132	1,006
IAEA (Regular and operational budgets)	1,155	881	7,220
GATT	651	557	3,898
WIPO	117	141	258
E. UN Association in Canada	35	35	470

* Canada ranks as sixth- to eighth-largest contributor to the budget of the United Nations and its related agencies.

** Contributions to UNRWA and the World Food Program include only the cash portion of the Canadian donation. There are also contributions in kind, consisting primarily of food grains.

Canadian participation in the United Nations and its system of organizations

1. On January 1, 1977, Canada became a member of the Security Council for the fourth time. The present term expires on December 31, 1978.

By virtue of this seat, Canada has become a member of the following Security Council bodies:

Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure
Committee on the Admission of New Members
Committee on Southern Rhodesia

2. *As a member of the United Nations, Canada is, of course, represented at each session of the United Nations General Assembly, including the seven main committees:*

First Committee (political and security)
Special Political Committee (political questions not discussed by First Committee)
Second Committee (economic and financial)
Third Committee (social, humanitarian and cultural)
Fourth Committee (trusteeship, including non-self-governing territories)
Fifth Committee (administrative and budgetary)
Sixth Committee (legal)

3. *Canada participates in the following subsidiary or ad hoc bodies of the United Nations General Assembly:*

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (Committee of 33)
Special Committee on the Financial Situation of the United Nations
Special Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Board of Auditors
Committee on Conferences
Committee on Contributions
Collective Measures Committee (has not functioned in recent years)
Disarmament Commission
United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee
UNSCEAR — United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
Advisory Committee for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)
Ad Hoc Committee on Extra-Budgetary Funds
Special Committee on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States
Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction
Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa

4. *Canada contributes personnel to the following peacekeeping operations established by the Security Council:*

UNMOGIP — United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNTSO — United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
UNFICYP — United Nations Force in Cyprus
UNEF — United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East
UNDOF — United Nations Desengagement Force in the Middle East

5. *Until the end of 1977, Canada is a member of ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council and of the following ECOSOC bodies:*
- A. Functional Commissions –
 - Statistical Commission
 - Commission on Human Rights
 - Commission on Narcotic Drugs
 - Commission of the Status of Women
 - Commission on Trans-National Corporations
 - B. Regional Commissions –
 - ECLA – Economic Commission for Latin America
 - ECE – Economic Commission for Europe
 - C. Standing Committee –
 - Advisory Committee on Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST)
 - Committee on Survey Program for the Development of Natural Resources
 - Member of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program for Refugees
 - The Committee on Science and Technology for Development
 - The Committee on Review and Appraisal
 - The Committee on Natural Resources
 - The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning
 - The Human Rights Committee
6. *Canada is a member of the following special bodies:*
- UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund (member of the Executive Board)
 - UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 - UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development including:
 - The Trade and Development Board
 - The Committee on Manufactures
 - The Committee on Invisibles and Financing Relating to Trade
 - Committee on Shipping
 - The Committee on Commodities
 - Committee on the Transfer of Technology
 - UNDP – United Nations Development Program
 - UNEP – United Nations Environment Program (member of Governing Council)
 - UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
7. *Canada is a member of the following Specialized Agencies and intergovernmental organizations:*
- IAEA – International Atomic Energy Association (member of Board of Governors)
 - GATT – General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade
 - Asian Development Bank (non-regional member)
 - Inter-American Development Bank
 - ILO – International Labour Organization (member of the Governing Body)
 - FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization (member of the Council)
 - United Nations FAO/World Food Program – WFP (member of the Council)
 - UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (member of the Executive Board)
 - WHO – World Health Organization (member of the Executive Board)
 - IBRD – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (member of the Board of Governors)
 - IFC – International Finance Corporation (member of the Board of Governors)
 - IDA – International Development Association (member of the Board of Governors)
 - IMF – International Monetary Fund (member of the Board of Governors)
 - ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization (member of the Council)
 - UPU – Universal Postal Union (member of Executive Council)
 - ITU – International Telecommunication Union (member of Administrative Council)
 - WMO – World Meteorological Organization (member of Executive Committee)
 - IMCO – Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
 - WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organization

Acronyms and Short Forms

AECL	— Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
ACABQ	— Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	— Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
Committee of 24	— Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
CCD	— Conference of the Committee on Disarmament
CIDA	— Canadian International Development Agency
EEC	— European Economic Community
ECA	— Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	— Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	— Economic Commission for Latin America
ECOSOC	— Economic and Social Council
ECWA	— Economic Commission for Western Asia
EDC	— Export Development Corporation
ESCAP	— Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	— Food and Agriculture Organization
GAATT	— General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	— International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	— International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	— International Civil Aviation Organization
IDA	— International Development Association
ILO	— International Labour Organization
IMCO	— Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	— International Monetary Fund
ITU	— International Telecommunication Union
NATO	— North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAS	— Organization of American States
OAU	— Organization of African Unity
OECD	— Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PLO	— Palestine Liberation Organization
UNCITRAL	— UN Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	— UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDOF	— UN Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	— UN Development Program
UNEF	— UN Emergency Force
UNEP	— UN Environment Program
UNESCO	— UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP	— UN Force in Cyprus
UNHCR	— Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	— UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	— UN Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	— UN Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	— UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCEAR	— UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
UPU	— Universal Postal Union
WFP	— World Food Program
WHO	— World Health Organization
WIPO	— World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	— World Meteorological Organization

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Government
Publications

Canada at the 32nd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER



External Affairs
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This booklet has been prepared to provide the public with a compact reference work which outlines the procedure and work of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Canadian Delegation to the Thirty-Second UN General Assembly.

The UN Charter established six principal organs of the United Nations: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. The General Assembly is at the centre of the United Nations' system; it receives and considers reports from the other organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. The General Assembly meets every year from the end of September until the end of December and provides opportunity to all member states to discuss and make recommendations on world problems.

Canada is an active participant in the proceedings of the General Assembly. Many statements on a number of issues were made by members of the Canadian Delegation during the Thirty-Second Session. Included in this book are some of the more important, addressing those issues of major concern to Canada. The full text of all statements delivered at UNGA XXXII and further information about Canada's role in the UN may be obtained by writing the Public Relations Division, Department of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson Building, OTTAWA K1A 0G2.

Canada at the 32nd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly



External Affairs
Canada

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INTRODUCTION

On October 24 of each year the world commemorates United Nations Day. In his 1977 message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, D. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, expressed Canada's concern for the United Nations and pledged renewed Canadian efforts to make the United Nations more effective. This letter serves as a good introduction to a review of Canada's participation at the Thirty-Second Session of the UN General Assembly.

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I wish to convey to you, and all the staff members of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-second anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

In your report this year to the members of the United Nations you warned us of the danger that governments might lose confidence in international institutions if discussions within them fail to yield constructive results. You reminded us that it is easy to blame international institutions for shortcomings which are often the direct result of the conflicting policies or actions of governments, and urged us to demonstrate self-restraint and statesmanship.

Canada has taken your warning to heart. We have been concerned that if all the members do not join together to make the United Nations more effective, then the important decisions affecting the fate of mankind will be made elsewhere, and the United Nations will wither into insignificance. As one of the founder-members and major supporters of the Organization, Canada would regard such a development as a tragedy.

I can assure you that Canada will do everything it can to improve the United Nations' ability to fulfil the purposes set out in the Charter, which remain as fundamental for mankind as they were in 1945.

PART I

CANADA AT UNGA XXXII

A. GENERAL DEBATE

Sessions of the General Assembly begin each year with a General Debate. Virtually all members of the international community take this opportunity to present their views on the major international issues of the day. In a statement delivered September 26, 1977, the Honourable Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, expressed the views of Canada.

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I am pleased to be one of the first speakers to congratulate you on your election, which my delegation regards as a tribute both to your personal qualities and to the important role your country has played in the United Nations. In agreeing to preside not only over our annual deliberations this autumn, you have accepted a heavy responsibility. I know you will fulfil it with distinction.

This year we welcome two new members to the Assembly, the Republic of Djibouti and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. As a member of the Security Council, Canada was pleased to recommend both countries for membership, and we look forward to working with them in this organization.

Effectiveness of the U.N.

Like others who will participate in this debate, I have received much advice on what I should say that might be helpful in solving the many problems we face. It has been a frustrating experience.

I have concluded that I could read my last year's speech again, word for word, and no one would notice the repetition, nor would they care! The sad truth is that every serious issue I and many others raised last year remains unresolved and some now pose a greater threat to peace and security than they did 12 months ago. It has not been a good year for the United Nations.

Small wonder that our deliberations have so little relevance for our publics back home or for the many millions around the world whom we are committed to help but who have become disillusioned and cynical about our ability to find answers to what are in many cases, matters of life and death.

I make these judgements with regret. No country has been more consistent than Canada in supporting the principles of the United Nations. We do not have to apologize for our record here or for the attitude of the Canadian people in accepting responsibilities for peacekeeping, for leadership in the North-South dialogue and for making a fair contribution to all U.N. initiatives. Canada and Canadians have earned the right to be heard and what Canadians are saying is that the performance of the United Nations is not good enough.

Canada does not, of course, exclude itself from all blame for this inadequate record. Like other countries, there are times when we get our priorities mixed and lack the proper sense of urgency in dealing with new or continuing threats to world order and security. Nor am I interested merely in pointing the finger at others for the dubious pleasure of giving vent to my frustrations. I speak as I do because I know that many of you share my views. It is not our sense of commitment that is flagging; no one in his right mind would wilfully project the world towards more blood-shed and potential global conflict. All of us want peace and order in international affairs.

Yet we are trapped in the tangled thickets of history, of fear, suspicion, and ancient deep-seated antagonisms. Self-interest usually prevails over our efforts to define and foster larger, more generous objectives. I am aware of the conviction of many in this organization and elsewhere that this is the reality of international affairs - "the real world" as they call it - that glaring imperfections are a normal and unavoidable part of the human condition and that we must resign ourselves to the mere containment of the most virulent and dangerous manifestations of human greed and irrationality; accepting that the world's fate is to stumble on from one crisis to the next. There are grounds for healthy skepticism, I agree; but in the United Nations that skepticism gives way too often to resignation and to a form of professional cynicism that views all new approaches as yet another example of short-lived idealistic naivete.

Let me assure you that I am not naive; but I cannot accept, Canada cannot accept, that this organization and its member states are powerless to remove the root causes of those major tensions that now require all of us to live out our lives in the constant shadow of impending disaster.

There is among us another widely held view that while any country can light a fire only the super-powers have the option of either fueling its flames or putting it out. There is, of course, a key role for the large, wealthy and powerful nations and their actions should not be greeted by automatic mistrust. But for smaller countries to do nothing or adhere blindly and unquestioningly to this or that power bloc is to avoid responsibility and to make a mockery of the United Nations and the opportunity it provides for reasoned, free and open debate.

However awesome the outcome of super-power decision making and action can be, we must never forget that many of today's flash points are not of their making. Many smaller countries have shown that they are perfectly capable entirely on their own of causing problems for all of us. And such actions are all the more reprehensible when they risk or even invite the escalation of east-west tensions.

If we are to make progress here, there must be an end to the sterile debates of recent years where the outcome is always a foregone conclusion. If the vitality of open debate is not restored to the U.N. then increasingly the important decisions affecting the fate of mankind will be made elsewhere and this organization and most of its agencies will wither into insignificance and, eventually, unlamented oblivion.

Lest any consider this too harsh a judgement and too pessimistic a forecast, I ask you to recall objectively the reaction of many of our own publics to U.N. deliberations and resolutions. My own experience at home and around the world has been bad.

Granted these criticisms are often based on prejudice or ignorance. But we know too that much can and should be done to make the United Nations more effective. I propose to give certain examples as well as suggestions for improvement.

Two of the main issues that will come before us at this session are the Middle East and Southern African situations. Last year we passed 20 resolutions on the Middle East and no less than 34 on questions related to Southern Africa. To what purpose was all that time and effort, not to mention money, expended? The answer is surely very little because many of those resolutions simply expressed moral judgements and were devoid of practical proposals for action. Furthermore, everyone knew they had little if any prospect of being implemented. Yet the vast and increasingly expensive machinery of the U.N. ground on not only through the 50 odd resolutions I have mentioned but through nearly 200 more, many in the same category and thus predestined to suffer the same fate. Already gathering dust, I suspect, is the 400 page compendium of these resolutions, most echoing almost word for word the deliberations of previous years.

No one should be surprised at the indifference with which the media and public greet their publication. By passing more resolutions we have succeeded paradoxically in ensuring that they receive less, not more, attention. Changing our collective habits will not be easy. We should scrutinize the agenda closely to resist the automatic re-inscription of old items and the addition of less essential new ones. We should group items so that similar debates will not take place in different committees on closely related subjects. We should avoid the proliferation of resolutions which express the members' aspirations or objectives but do not contribute in a practical way to achieving them. A few short, precise and practical resolutions will have more impact than the many rambling and ineffective ones we now consider each year.

Security Council

As a member once each decade of the Security Council, Canada has accumulated some experience but also had a chance to take a fresh look at its activities every time we return. So far this year, the Council has debated several significant issues in a sensible, restrained fashion. None of us would claim however that it has done much to enhance its position as the U.N. organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Our Secretary-General has wisely warned us of the risk that there may come "a time when the Council is desperately needed and will be found to be too weak to fulfil its responsibilities". The problems arise not because of weaknesses in the Council's structure or powers, but rather from a lack of impetus. To give a greater sense of purpose to the Council, the Charter provides for periodic meetings at which members could be represented by a Cabinet member or other specially-designated representative. Remarkably

the Council held the first such meeting in its history at the time of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebrations. This Assembly welcomed the Council's intention to hold further periodic meetings, but none has taken place.

I propose that the Security council should begin meeting regularly at Ministerial level. Fifteen Ministers meeting together could give a new sense of life and political purpose to the Council. Instead of following a formal agenda, they could have a free discussion of major issues of international peace and security, based on a special report by the Secretary-General. The meetings should be held in an informal atmosphere, without a small army of advisors, thus allowing the Ministers to exchange views informally. Meetings at Ministerial level should be held once or twice a year rather than once every twenty-five years. The first meeting might well be devoted to finding ways to make the work of the Council more relevant to the major issues of peace and security.

ECOSOC

When I spoke here last year, I suggested that the Economic and Social Council should be given a more significant role. At its spring and summer sessions, the Council considers a bewildering variety of issues. It has even less success in what should be its central task - setting priorities and coordinating the work of this family of organizations in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields. My delegation believes the Council should have more frequent and shorter sessions. At each of these it could deal thoroughly with one group of subjects, covering all of its agenda over a two-year period. From time to time the Council should also meet at Ministerial level to review major economic or social questions when policy considerations justify participation at this level. In all U.N. organs, I welcome new practices of informal consultation and negotiations through contact groups which help to turn the U.N. from a deliberative body into a real negotiating forum.

Specialized Agencies

We must also work for an improvement in the work of the specialized agencies. Many of these have a distinguished record. But our method for controlling the system as a whole has been unsatisfactory. We have been good at devising new programmes, but less so at identifying ones which are obsolete or at preventing duplication. One result has been an escalation of costs. A few years ago one of my predecessors complained to the Assembly that the assessed budgets of the U.N. family of organizations had doubled in ten years. Now they have more than doubled in five. We shall have to ensure that budgets are kept down, and that money is spent only on subjects that have the highest priority.

A second problem with the specialized agencies has been the extent to which they have been turned from their main purposes to deal with the political issues which are the responsibility of this Assembly. Canada is determined to resist this process. We have been particularly concerned about the

IL01. We value the organization for its record of achievement on human rights and its unique contribution to the U.N. system as a whole. We are anxious to preserve the impartiality and authority of its procedures so that a member state will not be condemned without impartial investigation. I believe that many members share our views and will work together for this purpose.

These proposals deal principally with improvements in our procedures. If implemented, and I confess that I am by no means sanguine that they will be, they would put us in a better position to deal with the important issues; but the complexity of the issues themselves will not be lessened.

Economic Issues

Although they manifest themselves in a variety of troubling ways including open conflicts, it is now apparent that the principal concerns of most members are, in fact, economic. The U.N. and its agencies have their work cut out for them if we are to move closer to a more just and equitable world economic order. The barriers to success are enormous as unemployment and inflation continue to plague even the wealthiest countries. Unless a spirit of reasonableness prevails, unless demands and responses are tailored to present economic realities, I must caution that even in Canada, which is far from being the least generous of the developed countries, pressures will develop to focus on our own considerable problems even to the exclusion of the international consequences. I need hardly tell you that we are not alone in this difficulty.

Canada's goal is to build on the foundations we helped to create through our co-chairmanship of CIEC.² Given the proper climate we will work hard to devise a strategy that is both broadly acceptable and realistic. In the coming weeks, Canada's representatives here, and at other U.N. and related meetings will announce additional Canadian financial commitments to a large number of international organizations. I will not take time today to relate the details. I do wish, however, to say a word about food aid.

The world food shortage has been eased by good harvests in many countries. However, the factors which gave rise to the recent crisis are still present, and recent studies concur in the likelihood of a short-fall in the next five to ten years. One proposal to improve world food security concerns the idea of a 500,000 ton emergency grain reserve. Canada previously announced a willingness to contribute along with other donors. I am now able to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, we would be willing to provide the equivalent of \$7.5 million in food grain - roughly 50,000 tons or 10% of the total objective.

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1. International Labour Organization
 2. Conference on International Economic Co-operation

At this session we must establish the machinery for developing a New International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. This task provides us with a rare opportunity to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the United Nations. We can take advantage of it, or we can allow our deliberations to deteriorate into sterile rhetorical exchanges which will sap the good will of those who must give and deepen the bitterness of the receivers. Let us resolve now to choose the first course.

Law of the Sea

Since I last spoke to this Assembly there have been important developments with respect to the Law of the Sea Conference. This historic conference illustrates very well some of the best and some of the worst aspects of United Nations deliberations and processes. Without the U.N. there is little doubt that management and control of the oceans and their resources would have deteriorated into anarchy. The Conference is, therefore, one of the U.N.'s great achievements; its originators and all who have participated deserve great credit. But it is an agonizingly slow process.

In the past 12 months many countries including Canada have extended their fishing jurisdiction over living resources in their coastal waters out to 200 miles. While it is true that these actions are based upon the common will of states reflected in the draft conference texts, it is also true that before that point could be reached, many fish stocks had become dangerously depleted, vital elements of the world's fishing industry were jeopardized and serious confrontations developed between traditionally friendly countries.

There are legitimate and complex reasons why the negotiations were difficult. But we cannot ignore the fact either that old habits and patterns are hard to abandon and it is ironic in some respects that only by acting in advance of the conclusion of the Conference did Canada and countries who took similar action enhance the United Nations and the undoubted value of the Conference. This lesson should, and I hope will, lend new urgency to the important work of the Conference that remains to be completed. We have taken ten years to come this far and the gains will be dissipated by a series of unilateral actions unless a comprehensive agreed international regime comes into force very soon.

Peace and Security - Southern Africa

It should be self-evident but sometimes is not that all of our painfully slow progress towards a more just and well ordered society rests on the fragile assumption that we can create and preserve a peaceful world. No argument should be necessary in defence of that proposition. Yet we continue to witness new outbreaks of violence and to hear from leaders genuinely convinced that the only path to their objectives leads across the battlefield. This belief is prevalent at present in parts of Southern Africa.

Soon we will be discussing the most recent plan for the attainment of majority rule in Rhodesia. Canada fully supports the plan not only because we believe it provides the basis for a fair and equitable solution but also because we reject totally the alternative of further blood-shed. There must

be no lessening of our resolve to see the end of the present illegal minority Rhodesian regime and for that reason we must redouble our efforts and our commitment to peaceful means. Otherwise, whatever the eventual outcome it will have about it the smell of failure and the sad realization that good can only be achieved through death and destruction.

Middle East

In the Middle East the issues are even more complex and the dangers to world security proportionately greater. All of us are hoping that present initiatives and negotiations will prove successful and today, as in the past, Canada urges all concerned to recognize fully their awesome responsibility to make every effort, explore every avenue that can lead to a peaceful and permanent solution to longstanding differences.

Canada remains committed to the framework for peace embodied in United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. Our support for Israel's right to exist as defined by those resolutions is firm and unequivocal. We deplore and will continue to do so, all efforts within this Assembly and elsewhere, to attribute patently false motives to Israel or to diminish its status and rights within the United Nations or as a legitimate member of the world community.

Canada believes all countries in the region need and have a right to expect more than just another ceasefire or merely a formal end to belligerency. If this kind of peace is to be achieved, the crucial issues of territory must be solved. The only truly secure borders - those which are freely recognized by the parties on either side of them - must be determined, by negotiations, within the framework of Resolution 242. Until then, we believe that nothing should be done unilaterally or illegally to change or predetermine the status of any part of the occupied territories. We regret that such actions are still being taken without regard to their effect on the prospects for peace. It is also clear that any resolution of territorial issues, if it is indeed to bring about the lasting peace that all desire, must provide a just, humanitarian and political solution for the Palestinian Arab people by which they can live in peace without threatening the security of any country in the region. Any solution for the Palestinian Arabs must, of course, include their clear and unequivocal acceptance of Israel's permanent existence as their neighbour. During this Assembly, we should bring our weight to bear to bring about an early resumption of negotiations and not attempt to substitute empty debates or one-sided resolutions for the complicated, slow, but essential process of working out a settlement by the parties themselves.

Obviously the Middle East situation has reached a crucial stage. For all concerned these are days of opportunity. We must pray that they act wisely and with a full awareness of the awful consequences of unwise actions.

For whenever there is a potential for conflict these days we must not only contemplate localized limited hostilities, as frightful as these always are. We know that each new flare-up wherever it occurs in the world is a potential threat to us all and even to world survival. We must remind those who would risk the use of arms that they are endangering more than the lives of their own people. Every weapon fired in anger is aimed, potentially, at us all. Thus we have a right and a duty to speak out; for what is at stake is in truth the peace of Canada and of every other country in the world.

Disarmament

Because this is the simple truth, no problem is of greater concern to this Assembly than disarmament, but equally no subject has more frustrated our efforts and disappointed our peoples. Next year's Special Session can provide us with an opportunity to move towards real disarmament. Canada co-sponsored the resolution calling for the session and we will put forward specific proposals to make it a success.

But we cannot wait for the Special Session. The need is immediate to improve and strengthen the international non-proliferation system, implement the non-proliferation treaty more effectively, and re-examine the risks and benefits in various nuclear cycles and processes.

If anything is more frightening than the prospect of rapidly escalating local hostilities it is the nightmare of unrestrained nuclear proliferation with all of its attendant horrors. I find it difficult to understand how anyone among the world's leaders could consider that an expansion in the number of nuclear weapon states would contribute to greater world stability. Canada, despite its known competence in the field, rejected the nuclear weapons option long ago. Now we are making every effort to ensure that others do likewise. We will only co-operate, in terms of nuclear supplies and technology, with those countries who have signed the non-proliferation treaty or are otherwise committed to full scope safeguards. We are encouraged by the fact that some other nuclear suppliers, including Australia and Sweden, have adopted a similar policy. We hope there will be more.

For Canada recognizes that with the inevitable decline, and increasing costs of conventional energy sources, much of the world will have no choice but to turn to nuclear sources to meet energy demands. We appreciate also that there are legitimate differences of opinion on the question of the safest and most efficient means of utilizing nuclear resources and technology. This is true even in countries whose commitment to non-proliferation is total and unquestioned.

Canada, therefore, welcomes and supports the London Summit meeting proposal for a thorough study of alternative fuel cycles that avoid the use of plutonium or improve safeguards. We commend the United States for its initiatives in this field and hope that all countries will give it their full support. This subject is much too broad and too important to be dealt with in a few moments. I hope, that this Assembly will provide the time for a full-scale discussion for there can be no subject of greater importance.

Peacekeeping

Because of Canada's special interest I hope and expect there will be an opportunity also to discuss U.N. peacekeeping activities. In the Middle East, Cyprus and South Asia, United Nation's peacekeeping forces or observer groups are in place. Soon there may be further requests involving Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Canada has consistently responded to U.N. requests to provide personnel as available for peacekeeping, because we believe this to be a significant way to contribute to world peace. But in Canada there is growing concern about peacekeeping for two reasons. Firstly, many of the disputes which led to the need for peacekeeping forces appear no nearer to solution than they were one, two or even three decades ago. We recognize that these basic and intractable problems cannot be settled overnight. What we wish, but do not always see, is evidence that the parties are intent on negotiating an end to their disputes.

Secondly, although the two most recent forces, the U.N. Emergency Force and the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force, are being properly paid for through collective assessment, we have failed to reach general agreement on how future peacekeeping operations should be financed, and the U.N. Force in Cyprus is over \$50 million in debt. If operations are not properly funded, many members of the U.N. will not be able to afford to provide forces - a situation which will not be healthy either for this organization or the concept of peacekeeping.

In considering future participation, Canada will weigh these two considerations: whether peacekeeping forces will contribute to a settlement rather than provide temporary relief or even contribute to a perpetuation of the problem, and whether arrangements to pay for them represent the common will of members to assume the financial burden and permit troop contributors to be selected from a broad cross-section of countries.

Human Rights

I have no doubt we will hear a great deal about human rights during the coming months. And not only here at the United Nations. Within a few days the review conference on the Helsinki Final Act opens in Belgrade. Canada, as one of the signers of that document, will make its views known at that time.

But we must also recognize that the United Nations has a major responsibility in the human rights field; one we have not always discharged fully or effectively.

Last year we welcomed the coming into force of the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights. Paradoxically at a time when these new human rights instruments have defined more fully the rights of persons in states which have ratified these instruments and have created new machinery to monitor the compliance of Member States with their legal and moral obligations, the gap between the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the practice of states has widened noticeably. It is regrettable that only one-third of the total membership of the United Nations has ratified the major human rights covenants, and that even fewer states have accepted the Optional Protocol. The various monitoring and reporting procedures are too slow and cumbersome to be truly effective, and offer little tangible assistance to victims of violations.

More progress can and must be made in those areas where abuses are flagrant and persistent. We should direct our efforts towards finding a means of monitoring compliance with the Declaration against torture passed by the General Assembly in 1975. We should improve the procedures for screening complaints and for acting on those that reflect serious abuse. We should consider better procedures for coordination of all U.N. activity in defense of Human Rights.

We recognize that the Charter of the United Nations obliges Member States to respect the sovereignty of others. But it is surely consistent with acceptance of the principle of non-interference to urge more complete and universal recognition of other freely assumed obligations - the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The fact is that on this as on all the other issues I have mentioned the performance of the United Nations and of all of its member states is being examined more closely and critically than ever before, for the sound and obvious reason that the stakes are higher than ever before.

I have spoken critically of some aspects of our past performance and present practices. I have done so not out of any desire to weaken this organization but because Canada is convinced that without a marked change of attitude on the part of members and without the reforms that are so clearly necessary, the erosion of the effectiveness and prestige of the United Nations will continue.

We must dedicate ourselves to work for this organization as if our lives depended on it. In truth they probably do.

B. POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Southern Africa

1. Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa

At each session of the United Nations General Assembly there is a debate on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa. Canada has consistently registered its rejection of the policy of apartheid which denies to the non-white majority of South Africans their fundamental rights. Canada considers the situation in South Africa unique; in no other state is racial discrimination institutionalized.

Ambassador Pierre Charpentier, representative of Canada, delivered a statement to a Plenary session of the General Assembly on November 21, 1977.

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Once again we are debating the question of apartheid in this Assembly. It seems that each year the debate takes place against the background of some new outrage in South Africa - Sharpeville, Soweto, and this time the death in police custody of Stephen Biko, the serious new wave of repression against legitimate dissent which began on October 19, and the arrests of 626 Africans including 198 children on November 10. In the face of this roll-call of tragic events, it is important to reflect soberly on the reasons why the General Assembly has had on its agenda constantly since 1948 the question of the policy of apartheid of South Africa.

The Charter of the United Nations, to which South Africa is a signatory, and to whose terms it is bound under international law, defines the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and for fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion as one of the purposes of this organization. Moreover, it is an accepted fact of international law that the treatment of individuals within a country, when patterns of gross violation of human rights develop, ceases to be a matter of purely domestic concern.

In this general context, I would note Canada has actively supported all efforts within the United Nations Human Rights Commission and elsewhere to obtain investigations into situations where a pattern of abuse is evident and where international attention might result in improvement. As for the specific item before us, there is no doubt in our minds that it is appropriate and important for the United Nations to focus on the apartheid policy of South Africa.

There is no parallel to the situation in South Africa anywhere else in the world. In no other country is a major segment of the population, and in this case the great majority, denied by law any participation in the national policies of the society, solely on the basis of race. In South Africa, laws made by the white minority alone establish the social and economic structure of the country. An individual's rights and possibilities are defined in relation to his racial origin and the colour of his skin.

The South African Government has contended that apartheid's network of racially discriminatory laws promote stability, racial harmony and economic prosperity for all. These contentions do not stand up to even the most cursory examination. The deprivation of non-whites of political participation is designed to a sole end and as it was put in a recent New York Times editorial, the relegation of non-whites to the status of mere economic instruments effectively deprives them of sovereignty over their own destiny.

The central objective of the apartheid system is evident. It is the preservation by means of law of a privileged economic and social status for the white minority in an economy which depends for its prosperity on the maintenance of cheap non-white labour. In support of this objective, South Africa has evolved a theory of society and government which is based on the negation of fundamental human values and flies in the face of general world evolution. How can the leaders of that country expect other governments to see it as more than what it is, a theory of despair feeding a system of oppression?

Despite the repression and personal danger, leaders such as Mandela, Sobukwe and Biko have struggled for peaceful change. They have been eloquent advocates of dialogue among the racial communities of South Africa. They have demanded simply equal rights and opportunities for all without regard to racial origins. But they, and others like them, have been repressed, have had key elements of their press silenced, and have had their peaceful organizations suppressed, while sympathizers, including school children, have been arrested, banned, detained and subjected to cruelty and violence.

The perpetuation of a racially discriminatory system of law in South Africa is a historical anomaly. Apartheid does not differ greatly in practice from the systems of exploitation which prevailed elsewhere on the African continent during the colonial period. While that colonial era has virtually come to an end, the attitudes of that era persist in South Africa. But nevertheless, South Africa is not a colonial situation. It is an African country of great racial diversity, whose people have come over the course of 300 years from Europe, from Africa and from Asia.

The maintenance of the policies of apartheid by the Government of South Africa has serious implications for the peace and security of Southern Africa as a whole. That region will not achieve long-lasting stability until the issues of Southern Rhodesia and of Namibia have been resolved in an internationally acceptable manner, and indeed until South Africa itself has evolved a system of full political participation and economic equity. It is the determination of the South African Government to maintain its racially discriminatory policies which lies at the core of the problems of Southern Africa. Its policies in respect of Rhodesia and Namibia, and its attitude and

actions toward neighbouring African states are based on a determination to maintain the apartheid system at whatever cost. By its large-scale militarization, by its build up of forces and weaponry far exceeding the requirements of its geographical position; by its unclear intentions with regard to nuclear weapon development, South Africa is seriously undermining prospects for stability in the region.

The extent of the concern of the international community on this subject was reflected at the World Conference for Action Against Apartheid held in Lagos in August. It brought together delegations from 112 governments and 12 inter-governmental organizations. The range of participation and the high level at which governments were represented demonstrated the seriousness with which the international community regards the situation in Southern Africa. The opinion of the international community, as embodied in the Lagos Declaration, was unanimous. It declared that South Africa "belongs to all its people irrespective of race, colour or creed, and that all have the right to live and work there in conditions of full equality". It commented further that "the system of racist domination must be replaced by majority rule and the participation of all the people on the basis of equality in all phases of national life in freely determining the political, economic and social character of their society and in freely disposing of their natural resources". The Conference called for international support to the peoples of South Africa in their struggle to attain their legitimate rights and action and efforts in favour of bringing to an end the system of apartheid.

For Canada, the concept of majority rule in a democratic society implies domination by none and full and equal participation by all with full respect for the rights of individuals and minorities. It is for South Africans to determine by what means economic, social and political adjustments to that end can be accomplished. But it is clear that all elements of the society must be fully and meaningfully involved in determining the process of change. The process will be complete, not when the majority obtains a slightly greater slice of the economic pie, and a slightly less oppressive life style, but when discrimination on the basis of race has been eliminated and a just economic and political system is established.

On November 4 the United Nations Security Council, of which Canada is at present a member, took a grave decision in imposing a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. It was a historic occasion, the first in which action of that nature was taken against a Member State of the United Nations. The Council's resolution determined, "having regard to the policies and acts of the South African Government, that the acquisition by South Africa of arms and related materiel constitutes a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security". It obliged all governments to cease the provision to South Africa of any arms, weapons, ammunition, military vehicles, equipment, paramilitary police equipment, any spare parts for these and any grants or licencing arrangements. It is also required that states refrain from any cooperation with South Africa in the manufacture and development of nuclear weapons. I would note here that a voluntary arms embargo has been fully and effectively implemented by Canada for many years. It was instituted in 1963 and extended to include spare parts in 1970. Canada has, furthermore, not engaged in nuclear cooperation with South Africa.

The fundamental change that is overdue in South Africa will occur not so much as a result of any comment or action on our part, but in direct response to the pressures for change which exist within South African society. The role of the international community towards change will be subsidiary to that of the people of South Africa. We can and shall continue to give them our moral support. We can and shall continue to provide increasingly for their humanitarian needs and to assist them with the education and training opportunities now denied them. We shall, furthermore, continue to evaluate possibilities for international pressures which will give support to those of whatever racial origin in South Africa who seek to bring about change in that society. That change will occur is inevitable. The only question that remains is how and when it will be accomplished - whether through peaceful means at the initiative of all groups in South Africa working together to define a new system, or whether by the further violence which will result if the aspirations of the majority are met with continued intransigence and repression.

2. "Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners"

The Canadian Government has on many occasions made known its concern about the continuing suppression of dissent against apartheid inside South Africa and the detention and mistreatment of political prisoners. Canada believes that non-violent dissent against the racist and unjust policies of apartheid constitutes legitimate political activity, and that South Africa must be made to recognize this fact, for with political rights denied to the majority, the internal situation is becoming more and more volatile.

When the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid met at UNGA XXXII to observe the "Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners", Mr. William C.Y. McGregor, Canadian delegate in the Third Committee, delivered a statement indicating Canada's profound disagreement with South African policies towards political dissent:

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We have come together on this occasion to demonstrate our concern for the men, women and children of South Africa of all races who have laid down their lives or have been subjected to imprisonment, detention, or banning, simply as a result of their struggle to bring about the end of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. From year to year, the situation of individuals in South Africa has deteriorated. Many thousands have been prosecuted as a direct result of their attempts to organize politically to bring about peaceful change in South Africa. The level of bannings, detentions, and criminal prosecutions carried out under the unjust laws which form the framework of the apartheid system has continued to increase. The tragic events of Soweto should have served the South African Government and the minority which elects it as a lesson of the futility of trying to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the South African majority, and of the need to make fundamental adjustments in that society. The lesson does not appear to have been learned.

Last month, black South Africans mourned the loss of Mr. Steven Biko, a prominent leader of the black consciousness movement. He was widely respected as a man who had the potential for engaging effectively in the meaningful inter-racial dialogue which is essential to a peaceful evolution of South African society. He died in unexplained and increasingly suspicious circumstances while in detention, the twentieth such death in South African prisons in the past eighteen months. His death, the most recent of this deplorable series of fatalities, has precipitated a renewed international outcry against the cruelty of apartheid and of the South African judicial system. Many white South Africans have as well demanded that their government investigate and explain the circumstances of this and similar deaths.

Immediately following Mr. Biko's death, the Canadian Embassy in Pretoria sent a message of condolence and sympathy to the Black People's Convention of South Africa for which Mr. Biko served as Honourary President and to the family at Mr. Biko's funeral as a demonstration of the concern of the Canadian people. In addition, the South African Government was advised of Canadian concerns. Indeed, Canadian individuals and groups are continuing even now to make known their distress at the death of Mr. Biko and at the plight of other South African political prisoners.

I have spoken in particular about Mr. Biko, as a most recent example in a long and distressing chain of abuse and repression. The insistence of the Government of South Africa on repressing legitimate political activity among the South African majority will lead to increased frustration and violence, and eventually to a breakdown of relations among the races in South Africa. We urge the South African Government to recognize that fact and to make action now to renounce all further violence, and to accord an unconditional release to all political prisoners and detainees as a means of establishing a climate in which a peaceful evolution of South African society can begin.

3. South African Arms Embargo

As a member of the Security Council in 1977, Canada took part in the historic decision (Security Council resolution 418 of November 4, 1977) to implement a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. It was the first time an action of this kind had been taken against a member state of the United Nations. In voting for the mandatory arms embargo, Canada was confirming a policy to which it has voluntarily adhered since 1963.

Mr. William H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada, commented on this matter in the Security Council on several occasions. The following statement was given by Mr. Barton, November 21 after the vote on the establishment of a committee to examine the implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa:

(Canada) supported the adoption by the Council of resolution 418 (1977) on 4 November which established a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter. We similarly support the decision which the Council has just taken to establish a committee to examine the progress of the implementation of the measures envisaged by the provisions of resolution 418 (1977).

In response to the note which the Secretary General circulated to States pursuant to operative paragraph 6 of resolution 418 (1977), the Canadian Government on 28 November advised the Secretary General that Canada had in 1963 voluntarily placed an arms embargo on the sale of arms and military equipment to South Africa and had in 1970 extended that embargo to include the sale of spare parts for such equipment in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Our reply noted that Canada had voted in favour of resolution 418 (1977) making this voluntary arms embargo mandatory and would faithfully implement its provisions.

In deciding how to establish a committee in relations to resolution 418 (1977), the Council has followed the precedent of the establishment of a similar committee by resolution 253 (1968) of the Security Council, on the subject of the mandatory sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. I realize that this is not the time to discuss the question, but I should like to put on record our belief that when the committee now being established begins its work, it should adopt procedures similar to those which have been evolved over the years for the Committee on Rhodesian Sanctions and move ahead in dealing with the main tasks established for it, as defined in operative paragraph 1 of the present resolution. The Canadian Government has cooperated fully with the Committee established under resolution 253 (1968) and has respected the workmanlike procedures that have been developed in that Committee to encourage and ensure cooperation with it by all member states. It will be our intention to support in like fashion the activities of the committee on the implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa.

4. Question of Namibia

South West Africa or Namibia is the only mandated territory that has neither become independent nor been placed under the UN trusteeship system. When the UN trusteeship system was established to replace the League of Nations mandates system, South Africa refused to place the mandated territory of South West Africa under trusteeship. In 1966, the UN General Assembly, by UNGA resolution 2145 (XXI), terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia and transferred responsibility for the territory to the United Nations. South Africa refused to accept this decision (which Canada supported) and the deadlock between the UN and South Africa continued. In 1970, in resolution 283, the Security Council requested all states to avoid any relations--diplomatic, consular or otherwise--with South Africa that would imply recognition of South Africa's administration of Namibia. In 1971 the International Court of Justice concluded that South Africa's presence in Namibia was illegal and that South Africa was obliged to withdraw its administration from the territory immediately, but this advisory opinion of the Court had no effect on the policy and action of the South African Government. Canada considers the

occupation of Namibia by South Africa illegal and has implemented those General Assembly resolutions on Namibia which Canada considers to be realistically aimed at solving the problem through negotiation and without violence.

During UNGA XXXII, Canada as a Western member of the Security Council was involved in negotiations on Namibia which were taking place outside the UN. The following explanation of vote was made by Ambassador Barton, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on behalf of the five Western members of the Security Council:

* * * *

On behalf of the governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States as well as Canada, I would like to describe for the General Assembly our joint views on the situation in Namibia and the efforts of our five governments this year to help bring about the independence of Namibia.

Our governments have over the years become more and more concerned over the continuation of the illegal situation in Namibia and the plight of the Namibian population, subjected as it has been and still is to the daily oppression of a racially discriminatory system based on the policies of apartheid. We have been concerned that every attempt at devising means to put an end to this long stalemate has failed and that every call for an early and peaceful solution has previously gone unheeded.

As members of the Security Council, our five governments are fully conscious of the necessity to achieve the implementation of Security Council Resolution 385 and thus to contribute to the development of a just and permanent solution to the Namibian question.

That Resolution, which is but the culmination of a long series of efforts by the Security Council to bring about a settlement to the issue, constitutes a comprehensive plan of action to achieve in an orderly fashion full independence for Namibia. It follows that to be consistent with that Resolution, any proposed solution must provide for free elections, under the supervision and control of the U.N., for the whole of Namibia as one political entity, and open to the genuine participation of all Namibians including those now being detained or in exile. Conditions must be created that will guarantee that such a political process is realized and the cooperation of all concerned must be secured. The basic objectives of the Security Council and indeed of the international community as a whole must be translated into concrete measures which will be faithfully implemented.

Resolution 385, which continues to have the full support of our five governments, has therefore constituted the basis for the joint efforts which we launched last spring in an informal attempt at exploring with all the parties concerned the possibilities of a solution to the Namibian problem. We have been under no illusion as to the difficulties inherent in such an undertaking but it has been and remains our hope that a thorough exploration on our part of all relevant factors would identify practical means that would enable the parties to make possible the implementation of Resolution 385. Thus our goal has been to prepare the way for all the people of Namibia to exercise fully their long delayed right to self-determination with the assistance of the U.N. through truly democratic elections on a territory-wide basis.

Discussions with the parties began in April. There have so far been three rounds of discussions with the South African government. A second round of discussions with SWAPO is currently in progress. Consistent with the critical role of the U.N. in respect of Namibia, we have kept Secretary-General Waldheim and the U.N. Council for Namibia informed of our efforts. We have also been in close touch with the front line states and other African states.

To date, we can report that some progress has been made. We believe that our initiative has forestalled the plan to establish an interim government on the basis of the Turnhalle Constitution and that we have laid the foundations for a U.N. involvement.

It should be clear from our efforts thus far that no lasting peaceful solution to the Namibian problem is possible unless it has the full backing of the international community. It is also clear that the parties directly concerned have an unique opportunity to achieve such a solution, despite the distrust which has built up over the years. The elements of a solution are to be found in Resolution 385 and we, for our part, will persevere in our efforts to remove the remaining obstacles to its implementation. It is our hope and expectation that all concerned will endeavour to facilitate the achievement of this objective and that by next year, an independent Namibian government, representative of all Namibians, will take its rightful place among us in this hall.

5. Activities of Foreign Economic and Other Interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories

The Fourth Committee discusses the effects of foreign economic interests on non-self-governing territories every session. In 1975 Canada supported the resolution on this issue but in 1976 and 1977, the resolution became politicized. The resolutions on "foreign economic interests" in 1976 and 1977 contained condemnations of all foreign investment whatever the circumstances and of Western countries which were not acceptable. Canada voted against the resolutions in both years.

On October 6, 1977 Ambassador Pierre Charpertier, Canadian representative on the Fourth Committee, delivered a statement on the item.

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The item before us should precipitate discussion on two distinct fronts. The first is the question of the role which foreign economic interests do, or do not, play in inhibiting the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization in the territories of Southern Rhodesia and Namibia. The second is the question of the effect of foreign economic activity on the evolution towards self-determination in the small territories which have not yet exercised that right.

It is important, we believe, in our debate and in the development of our resolution on the subject to distinguish clearly between these two aspects, and not to make sweeping generalizations, which, although appropriate to one territory, are not necessarily appropriate to another.

With regard to Southern Rhodesia the facts are clear. It is the subject of broad economic sanctions invoked under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. As a result the onus lies on all foreign economic interests, in accordance with international law and the laws of their own states, to ensure that they abide by the sanctions and in no way aid or abet the continuation of the illegal regime. It is correspondingly the duty of every state to do all in its power to ensure compliance and to prosecute any interest which is acting in defiance of the sanctions.

The situation in Namibia is unique unto itself. In line with resolutions of the Security Council and the decisions of the International Court of Justice, there is an obligation upon member states to ensure that in any dealings with South Africa, they give no recognition whatsoever to its illegal administration of Namibia. Canada has taken this obligation seriously and has ensured that no treaty in existence between Canada and South Africa applies to Namibia. We maintain no diplomatic or commercial representation in Namibia. Furthermore, Canadian citizens who plan to travel there and Canadian companies which propose to invest there are advised that they do so at their own risk.

Turning to the question of foreign investment in small and frequently isolated non-self-governing territories, we must comment that we consider it important that in this debate a certain impartiality be maintained. We should not find ourselves discussing the merits of one economic system as opposed to another. Our overall objective should be to ensure that the economic development of a non-self-governing territory is carried out in a manner which is in harmony with the long- and short-term interests of the peoples of those territories. We consider it the responsibility of the de facto administering power to ensure that this is the case.

Foreign economic investment can be, and frequently is, beneficial. Most independent countries, whether developed or developing, seek foreign investment, in accordance with criteria which they have established. It is not logical for us to suggest that as a general policy non-self-governing territories should be denied the right to seek such investment if they consider it to be in line with their aspirations. Quite clearly each investment must be judged on its own merits. Our concern should be to ensure that the fact that the territory has not yet achieved self-determination does not prejudice its economic and investment policies.

The document before the Committee deals in part with three territories which are located relatively close to Canada, and with which Canadians have wide contacts. Those relationships include trade and investment, exchanges of people, and tourism. In one instance investment goes in both directions. I wish to make clear that in all such cases the decision as to whether or not an investment is made in a given territory lies with the company concerned and is made in the context of investment regulations existing in that territory.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that this Committee support the will of the freely elected governments of non-self-governing territories and not attempt to impose its will on them. Bermuda, for example, with which Canada has the closest of relations is entirely sovereign as regards trade, commerce, economic and other financial affairs. We do not believe that the Committee should set itself the task of commenting upon policies developed by that democratically elected government.

Mr. Chairman, in the case of each and every territory one of our key concerns must be to promote the development of a sound economic base which will provide the foundation for a stable and prosperous independence. Surely this Committee, in its concern for the political rights of the people of each territory, will wish to support that end.

6. The Question of Rhodesia

Since Rhodesia unilaterally declared its independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, the United Nations has attempted, through General Assembly resolutions and Security Council Chapter VII economic sanctions, to bring down the illegal minority regime. Canada has supported these efforts and all attempts to achieve negotiated settlement of the problem aimed at bringing about legal independence and majority rule. For this reason Canada supported in 1977 an Anglo-American plan designed to be the basis of negotiations leading to that objective.

On December 8, 1977, Ambassador Pierre Charpentier, Canadian representative in the French Committee, delivered a statement to the Fourth Committee on the Question of Rhodesia.

For too many years the General Assembly of the United Nations has had on its agenda the question of Rhodesia, where a repressive regime has illegally exercised its authority. The hold of the white minority is, however, clearly slipping and it has become increasingly evident that major changes must take place soon.

The fact that change now seems a realistic possibility and the degree to which the plight of the oppressed majority is known to the world is, of course, primarily due to the courage and tenacity of the people of Zimbabwe. Their sacrifices and the intensity of their struggle to achieve independence and majority rule have served to attract world opinion in their cause.

Ever since Mr. Smith's unilateral declaration of Rhodesian independence in 1965, Canada has been deeply concerned with the search for an end to the mockery of world opinion which the illegal minority regime represents. When Canada was last on the Security Council in 1968, we joined with our colleagues in passing by unanimous vote Resolution 253 which represented the first time the United Nations had used its authority to impose economic sanctions. Canada has enforced these sanctions at home and striven to encourage all members -- and, indeed, non members -- of this Organization, to do likewise.

While it is true that the economic sanctions imposed to date against the illegal regime have not had the immediate and conclusive effect that their architects had, perhaps optimistically, envisaged, they have nevertheless taken an important toll. The sanctions and the fact that ever more scarce human and material resources are being devoted to a constantly widening war which the white minority knows it cannot win, has created a climate of strain and uncertainty in Rhodesia which has resulted in sharply increased levels of white emigration.

It must be remembered, however, that the effectiveness of economic sanctions has been greatly enhanced by the closure of the Zambian and Mozambiquian borders but the resulting economic burden on all the surrounding African states has been extremely heavy. Canada, for its part, has provided economic assistance to these countries to help offset some of the sacrifices they have made.

The conference which was held in Maputo in May of this year, in support of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, will be remembered as a significant milestone on the road to independence and majority rule in both countries. Uniting, as it did, all major elements concerned with bringing about majority rule in Zimbabwe, the Maputo Conference clearly demonstrated an international solidarity of purpose in its reaffirmation that progress towards majority rule must involve the full participation of all the people of Zimbabwe. The Conference served to remind participants of the painstaking search for a negotiated settlement, the continual frustration of which had given rise to armed struggle, and concluded that the combination of this pressure and the efforts of the international community were creating positive conditions for a negotiated settlement based on majority rule.

Despite these international efforts, it is only recently that there has been evidence to suggest that Mr. Smith has accepted at long last the concept of negotiation aimed at transition to majority rule on the basis of one-man-one-vote. Canada has always maintained, even in the face of deeply frustrating intransigence, that any negotiated settlement must take into account all relevant factors. We believe that all the people of Zimbabwe must be allowed to join freely in the process of negotiating a settlement which will preserve their right to self-determination and independence. As the Canadian delegate to the Maputo Conference commented:

To bring about an enduring settlement, negotiations must also take account of all nationalist elements which are building up political and military pressure, whether from within or from without. No so-called internal solution will be acceptable, neither would it endure; nor is a purely external solution likely to garner sufficient support among the Zimbabwean majority. Our objectives, we believe, should be to encourage the elaboration of a framework within which the independent Zimbabwe Government will be chosen by all Zimbabweans.

The initiative launched last spring by the United Kingdom - with the active support of the USA - in our view contained the necessary elements for a negotiated and internationally acceptable settlement. The Canadian Government therefore supported this initiative because, for the first time in over ten years of searching for a peaceful settlement, all parties concerned were able to accept a single document as a basis for further negotiation. The talks undertaken by Field Marshall Carver and the Special Representative of the Secretary General, General Prem Chand, dealt with some of the hard issues which will need to be resolved for any settlement to endure, and we regret that it was not possible to enlarge the areas of agreement. It is difficult to see how the internal settlement that has now been proposed by Mr. Smith as an alternative can lead to the peaceful and stable Zimbabwe that is our common goal. Clearly, a settlement that is acceptable to the international community -- and ultimately to the Security Council -- can only be achieved through a negotiating process that involves all the parties concerned.

In the current situation, it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that international pressure is maintained. Canada has, of course, not been part of the negotiating process in Zimbabwe. We are, nevertheless, prepared to do whatever we can to encourage those directly involved in their efforts and to assist in minimizing disruptions in the delicate transitional period. Canada would consider very carefully requests for a Canadian contribution to United Nations involvement in a settlement, and we have, for instance, accepted in principle the concept of a Zimbabwe Development Fund. We shall, in the same spirit, continue to contribute substantially to UN, Commonwealth and non-governmental programmes which provide educational training and other humanitarian assistance to the Zimbabwean African people in preparation for their future roles in an independent Zimbabwe.

In concluding, I should like to reiterate the need for flexibility and a willingness to compromise on the part of all parties concerned. For the sake of all the people of Zimbabwe, we hope that such a spirit will prevail in the coming months, which will be crucial to the future of Zimbabwe.

MIDDLE EAST

7. The Situation in the Middle East

Canada's position on the Situation in the Middle East is that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 provide a valid framework for a just and equitable solution to the Middle East conflict. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of every state in the region must be respected. Canada opposes any moves which would challenge the right to exist of Israel, or of any other state in the region. At the same time, the concerns of the Palestinian people must be taken into account in any peace settlement. They should be heard in any negotiations affecting their future. Canada believes, as well, that the aspirations of the Palestinian people in terms of developing an appropriate structure and territorial foundation for their political self-expression should be taken into account as part of an overall settlement.

The following statement was made by Ambassador W.H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN, during the debate in Plenary on the Situation in the Middle East, November 24, 1977.

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I would like to begin by asserting once again our hope that a just and lasting peace will be achieved in the Middle East in the not too distant future. It is generally agreed that certain principles serve as a foundation for negotiations. The settlement of the Middle East conflict must be based on the principles of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Israel must withdraw from territories occupied in 1967, as part of a process that establishes secure and recognized borders for all states in the region and that provides effective recognition for the right of all these states to live in peace. Resolution 242 was a landmark of general agreement on the essential framework for a just and lasting peace. It should be used as the basis for moving ahead toward a negotiated solution, which to be durable must satisfy the concerns for security of all the parties, and meet the concerns of the Palestinian people.

We reaffirm at this time that we consider the most appropriate means for achieving peace is for the parties directly concerned to negotiate, choosing for themselves the vehicles they wish to use for those negotiations. Recent events seem to us to be leading towards the reconvening of the Geneva Conference. As we have stated before, the Geneva Conference provides machinery by which to achieve an overall settlement and we favour using that machinery. That conference appears to be within reach. The momentum for peace negotiations seems to have begun but it has taken place outside the halls of the United Nations. The aim of any debate in the United Nations on Middle East questions should in our view be to further the achievement of peace in the region.

Our debates and resolutions serve as an expression of opinion of the international community and that, of course, is important. But, at this moment, what is even more important, is for us to encourage and allow the parties concerned to pursue the dialogue upon which they have embarked. Now that we are well into the debate, we hope that the statements which we will hear will be positive and that any resolutions which are proposed will reflect not only the respective views of the member states but will take into account the recent events in the Middle East.

The most recent developments have, in our view, placed the question concerning the Middle East in a new light. The Canadian House of Commons has unanimously commended President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel for their courage and positive initiative in beginning a direct dialogue. It is our sincere hope that this historic event will serve as the impetus necessary to achieve at last a just and lasting peace. A new atmosphere appears to have emerged and the psychological barrier which has existed for so long seems to have been broken by the leaders of Egypt and Israel. We hope the dialogue will be expanded to include Israel's other neighbours and representatives of the Palestinian people. The Canadian Government believes that the member states of the United Nations have a moral and political responsibility to encourage the continuation and broadening of the dialogue which took place last weekend in Jerusalem so that comprehensive negotiations leading to a final peace settlement can get under way as soon as possible in a constructive atmosphere.

8. The Question of Cyprus

Canada, which has contributed troops to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) ever since its establishment in 1964, remains concerned that the presence of UNFICYP has not led to significant progress towards achieving a political solution to the problems of Cyprus. Canada has also been giving support to the special appeal of the Secretary-General for new or increased contributions to the UNFICYP account to help reduce the increasing deficit. While urging the Secretary-General to continue his "good offices" role in continuing intercommunal talks in Cyprus, Canada recognizes that meaningful progress in these negotiations will not be possible until the Turkish-Cypriots demonstrate their willingness to make territorial concessions and the Greek-Cypriots their willingness to discuss new constitutional arrangements. On November 8, 1977, Mr. William H. Barton, the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, gave expression to these views during the debate on Cyprus in Plenary.

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Canada joined with a great majority of Member States in supporting the resolutions adopted by this Assembly on the question of Cyprus in 1974 and in 1975. We have supported as well the mandate of the Secretary-General to provide his good offices to the two communities in Cyprus. We have continued to support the work of both the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the island.

But the principal focus of Canada's direct interest in the situation in Cyprus has remained the presence on the island for the past thirteen years of Canadian soldiers as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Over 19,000 Canadians have served in Cyprus during this period. We are proud of the contribution these men have made - along with their comrade soldiers and policemen from Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Ireland and Australia - to the practical implementation of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

I personally had the privilege of visiting the island in March of this year and can add my own testimony to that of others as to the efficiency, dedication and competence of the members of all contingents in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus. We were therefore pleased to note that the draft resolution, recorded in document A/32/L.16 of November 4, includes, in its operative paragraph 6, a renewed call for the parties concerned to co-operate with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

Canada's involvement in Cyprus stems primarily from our membership in the United Nations and our readiness to assist the Organization to maintain peace and security. It also stems from concern for the national integrity of a fellow Commonwealth member and for the harsh fate that has befallen countless individual Cypriots. In this connection, further attention needs to be focussed on the matter of individuals who have been unaccounted for since the conflict in 1974. This question was considered at the thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the international concern over this humanitarian issue was reflected in the language of Resolution 3395 (XXX). Yet the situation persists and we must once again urge that "the tracing and accounting for missing persons" be conducted as effectively as possible on an urgent basis.

The Canadian Government has on many past occasions in this forum expressed its reservations about certain aspects of the United Nations' role in Cyprus. We have always believed that peacekeeping should be accompanied by peacemaking. Despite the fact that the existence in Cyprus of a United Nations peacekeeping force has lessened the tensions on the island with the effect of improving the atmosphere for a negotiated settlement, we nevertheless remain disappointed that the presence of UNFICYP has not led to significant progress in achieving a political solution to the problems of Cyprus.

In the Canadian intervention in the Cyprus debate last year, we also underlined our concern about the growing deficit in the UNFICYP account and called upon Member States to provide a larger number of voluntary financial contributions. In the past few months, Canada, in association with the other troop-contributing nations, has been actively involved in assisting the Secretary-General through our own representations in support of his appeals

for new or additional contributions to the UNFICYP account. The contributions which have been made to date, in response to these appeals, fall far short of the total need, but we are hopeful that, during the coming months, our efforts will bear significant fruit in helping to reduce the ever-increasing deficit in the UNFICYP account, which - I must once more reiterate - is now being financed, owing to the shortfall in voluntary contributions, mainly by the troop contributors themselves. As the co-sponsors of this year's draft resolution have themselves recognized, UNFICYP continues to play an important role on the island and it is difficult to imagine what the consequences would be if the Force, already recently reduced by the withdrawal of the Finnish contingent, were to be trimmed even further because of financial considerations.

Turning now to the political situation, I should like to reaffirm, the Canadian Government's continuing support for the Secretary-General and his representatives in their efforts to stimulate a resumption of the intercommunal talks. At this time, I should like to pay a special tribute to His Excellency Mr. Perez de Cuellar, on the eve of his retirement from his position as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, for his tireless endeavours in the cause of peace.

As for the intercommunal talks themselves, the Canadian Government has every sympathy concerning the frustrating position in which the United Nations Secretary-General has been placed. Nevertheless, we wish to encourage him to persist in his "good offices" role with respect to the negotiations between the two communities in Cyprus. The international community was encouraged earlier this year by the resumption of the intercommunal talks in February and held high hopes that significant and mutual concessions would be made by both sides. Unfortunately, however, our hopes were not sustained and we are fully aware that, before meaningful talks can be resumed, certain preconditions will have to be met, at least implicitly. The Turkish-Cypriots will have to demonstrate their willingness to make territorial concessions and the Greek-Cypriots their willingness to discuss new constitutional arrangements. We also hope that the other parties directly concerned will demonstrate a similar willingness to assume a helpful and catalytic function. However important international debate of this issue may be, it is through resumed intercommunal talks that progress will come about, as the draft resolution recognizes in its operative paragraph 3. Needless to say, we also remain convinced that any political solution to the question must include the preservation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

9. Peacekeeping

The Canadian Government, while proud of the role in the field of members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations, is still of the opinion that a number of aspects of those operations could have been handled more effectively with the benefit of advance planning and agreed guidelines. Canada is very disappointed that, after 13 years of effort, the U.N. Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has not yet been able to agree on such guidelines. Nevertheless, Canada has evolved

some criteria of its own, the most important of which is that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation should be linked to an agreement by the parties to negotiate a political settlement, preferably within a defined period of time. The Special Committee should also give increased attention to the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations and Canada has proposed some recommendations in this regard. Miss Coline Campbell, M.P., delivered the following statement in the Special Political Committee on December 8, 1977:

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United Nations peacekeeping operations are of great importance to the United Nations in its primary task of maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations can make a critical contribution to reducing tensions in crises and helping provide the right climate for a negotiated settlement of the political problems involved.

Canada is proud of the role in the field which has been played, under greatly varying conditions, by members of its armed forces in United Nations peacekeeping operations. These Canadians, along with their comrades-in-arms from other nations, have proved indispensable in the Middle East, Cyprus and elsewhere.

Nevertheless there are a number of aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations which could have been handled more effectively with the benefit of advance planning and agreed guidelines. Nor can we be confident that any new operation will run smoothly. This is difficult to justify, given the cumulative United Nations experience related to peacekeeping. Unless the United Nations can implement better the principles and purposes of the Charter, its prestige and authority cannot be sustained on a level commensurate with the hopes and aspirations of those who signed the Charter almost thirty-three years ago.

For many years Canada has attempted to use its experience in peacekeeping to assist in the development of United Nations peacekeeping theory and practice. We are very disappointed by the lack of substantive progress. Peacekeeping was an unforeseen response to emergency situations, after it became apparent that the collective security system originally envisaged in the United Nations Charter could not be implemented. Each peacekeeping operation has been set up on an ad hoc basis. The lack of agreed procedures or guidelines on the establishment and operation of peacekeeping missions has hampered the ability of the United Nations to respond quickly to crises, and to plan and service peacekeeping forces in the field. Troop contributors are especially aware of these problems, for we suffer the consequences directly.

As a result of its experience in a variety of United Nations peacekeeping situations, Canada has evolved a set of criteria for the effective functioning of any peacekeeping force, whether or not Canada is invited to participate. First, the establishment of a peacekeeping operation should be linked to an agreement by the parties to negotiate a settlement, preferably within a defined period of time. Without movement towards "peacemaking", a peacekeeping force may eventually contribute to a perpetuation of the problem, as the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs noted in his address to the General Assembly earlier this year.

A peacekeeping force should be responsible to a political authority, preferably the Security Council of the United Nations, and this authority should receive reports and have adequate powers to supervise the mandate of the force. Canada's peacekeeping experience has extended beyond participation in missions of the United Nations - such as the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Indochina - but we have found that United Nations operations stand a greater chance of success, and we prefer them accordingly.

The question of command, control and supervision of peacekeeping forces within the United Nations are of vital importance. As a troop contributor, Canada considers it desirable that the Secretary-General should be in a position to direct peacekeeping operations under the broad authority of the Security Council and that he should appoint the Commander, after consulting the parties to the conflict and the Security Council. Such a system would combine the maximum of efficiency with flexibility.

A peacekeeping force should have a clear mandate, adequate to permit it to carry out its assigned functions, including provision for freedom of movement. The lack of a clear mandate, or an inadequate one, can seriously interfere in the continued effective operation of a force.

A crucial prerequisite for a peacekeeping mission is that all the parties to a conflict accept the presence of the force and agree to maintain a ceasefire. A United Nations group, whether an observer mission or a larger interpositional force, would not be able to operate effectively if one or more parties refused to accept the presence of a United Nations force or to honour a ceasefire. As far as Canada itself is concerned, we extend the concept of the acceptability of a force as a whole to the national contingents involved therein. Canadian participation in a force must be acceptable to all concerned, and this should be equally valid for other potential troop contributors. In return, host states must give all members of the force equal treatment and respect.

I would also like to draw attention to the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations. If the contributors to peacekeeping operations are to be widely representative of the membership, as they should be, the membership should be prepared to accept the costs. A system of voluntary contributions is demoralizing because it leads to indifference and cynicism. Only certain countries can afford to contribute troops in these conditions. All states have a responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security and all must contribute financially to this end, taking into account their capacity to pay, just as they do to other activities of benefit to all.

Canada is equally concerned with the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations, especially those which are amenable to implementation in advance of agreed guidelines. A number of proposals, as outlined in Appendix II of the Special Committee's report, have been made to date without any in-depth examination. This examination should take place. Changes and improvements in a number of areas - such as the designation of stand-by forces for United Nations service, national training of troops for peacekeeping roles, the preparation of training manuals on peacekeeping operations, prior training for officers designated to senior command or staff positions under United Nations auspices and/or coordination and the convening of regional/-international seminars on peacekeeping - would all have a positive effect on the implementation of any United Nations peacekeeping operation and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of such a force in the field. The Special Committee in the coming year might study other practical measures, such as logistic support arrangements and model status-of-forces agreements.

In evaluating the efforts of the Special Committee and its Working Group over the past year, it is right to acknowledge that some progress has been made. but if we are to make faster progress, modifications in the mandate and methods of work of the Committee and its Working Group appear to be necessary. We believe first that equal priority should be given to practical measures and guidelines in any revised mandate granted the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group. Secondly, the achievement of consensus should not be blocked indefinitely by one or a few delegations. I would therefore recommend that, in the future, one delegation should not be permitted to deny consensus unless that delegation is prepared to record its national reservations in the written reports of the Working Group and its parent Committee. With the adoption of such a procedural device, the areas of difficulty would then be clearly delineated.

Canada has participated in the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations since its inception. I repeat that we are dismayed by the lack of agreement on guidelines. On the other hand, we prefer no guidelines to inflexible and impractical guidelines. What Canada wants is concrete progress on both guidelines and practical measures. If a new mandate for the Committee is necessary to accomplish this, then we shall support such a proposal. We do not wish to see the Committee abandon its efforts however. The United Nations is faced with a number of conflicts which could well lead to new requirements for peacekeeping. Public opinion in my country would find it hard to understand in these circumstances if this Assembly were to abdicate its responsibilities in this field.

10. Disarmament

During the thirty-second session, the United Nations continued to seek and propose solutions to the complex problems of disarmament. More than a hundred and ten national declarations on this subject and the adoption of twenty-four resolutions demonstrate the importance that the international community attaches to these problems. Several speeches emphasized the necessity for tangible progress in this field in the coming months and evoked the hopes raised by the extraordinary session on disarmament to be held in May 1978.

It is in this context that Mr. Harry Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, intervened on October 29, 1977 in the general debate on disarmament in the First Committee.

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In his address to the General Assembly on September 26, 1977 the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada stated "No problem is of greater concern to the United Nations than disarmament, but equally no subject has more frustrated our efforts and disappointed our peoples". I recall also that in the debate in First Committee last year I expressed a sense of impatience, frustration and profound disappointment at the continuing failure of the international community to face up more concretely and rapidly to the awesome problems that confront us in the field of disarmament. Disappointing as achievements have been up to now, when we come to examine the current situation we do find that there are grounds for greater optimism in at least three crucial areas. In these areas efforts have been accelerated and intensified, with the result that opportunities for major progress may at last be in sight.

These developments do not, of course, give grounds for any complacency. The task of nurturing these possibilities to the stage of fruition is bound to take time. This fact does not diminish, but heightens our sense of urgency. As a result of the persistent efforts of the international community to enhance international security through arms limitation and disarmament measures we now are on a threshold of important developments. The success of this enterprise will depend on the intensity of the effort -- particularly by all militarily significant states -- in the next few years.

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

First and foremost, in terms of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the superpowers, the ongoing efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union to reach agreement on a series of further measures to curb, and then to reverse, the strategic arms race are of crucial importance. It is the strongly held view of Canada that these bilateral negotiations between the two major nuclear powers must, as their ultimate objective, endeavour to attack the problem in qualitative as well as quantitative terms -- that is, seek to curb the technological arms race, as well as limit and reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons.

A short while ago, the United States and the Soviet Union announced separately their intention to continue to be governed by the provisions of the now-expired SALT I strategic arms limitation agreement, in order to preserve a measure of stability while negotiations continued for the long-delayed follow-on agreement, SALT II, which should be a significant first step in the

actual reduction of nuclear arsenals. It is particularly important that the negotiations on SALT II, and on certain interim supplementary restraints, are now being pursued with renewed vigour.

No one who is aware of the serious problems involved in such negotiations, relating to matters of vital security interest, can question the complexity of the difficulties which must be overcome in order to achieve worthwhile measures of restraint with regard to strategic weapons. Nonetheless, if the momentum of the negotiations so painstakingly achieved in past years is not to be lost and the prospects of success diminished, Canada strongly believes that new, bold steps forward at the earliest possible date are desirable -- even essential. At this juncture, it would be appropriate for the Assembly to leave the two negotiating powers in no doubt about the profound hope of the international community that these talks will soon result in the conclusion of SALT II, and permit progress to the third stage of SALT, which should lead to further and substantial reductions in strategic weapons.

Non-Proliferation

The other side of the same coin is the pressing need to improve the international non-proliferation system, to strengthen safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to implement the Non-Proliferation Treaty more effectively and to re-examine the risks inherent in various nuclear cycles and processes. This task is all the more important because the world must increasingly come to terms with a growing energy shortage, and many countries are looking to nuclear energy as an alternative to conventional sources. In this field Canada has had long experience, as a producer and a supplier, of both uranium and proven nuclear technology. We recognize the contribution we can make as an exporter to the energy poor countries, both industrialized and developing. At the same time, we attach the highest importance to developing the most effective international system of safeguards possible in order to try to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and the capability to produce them.

This policy stems from concerns which go beyond commercial considerations. We have made clear that we are prepared to sacrifice potential gains rather than accept less than satisfactory controls. Canada has rejected the nuclear weapon option long ago and our policy on safeguards is the logical extension of our concern, and indeed our sense of responsibility, regarding non-proliferation. Accordingly, in the case of its exports of nuclear materials, equipment and technology to other non-nuclear weapon states, Canada requires that such countries should either adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or otherwise make a binding non-proliferation commitment and accept IAEA-administered safeguards on their entire nuclear programme (so-called "full-scope safeguards"). In seeking from others agreement to such controls and safeguards we are asking for undertakings which Canada has already, and willingly, accepted. We welcome the fact that a number of other suppliers have adopted a similar policy. It is our hope that this condition will become a basic international requirement facilitating international cooperation in the strictly peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Canada also welcomes the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation project which is about to get underway on a broad international basis. We appreciate that there are legitimate differences of opinion on the question of the desirability of different means of utilizing nuclear resources and technology, but we hope that this international study will give careful thought to alternative fuel cycles that avoid the use of plutonium and improve safeguards. In our view the international nuclear fuel cycle study project warrants the full support of the international community. The plain fact is that although countries such as Canada have been prepared to adopt rigorous measures at the national level, the international non-proliferation system can be implemented effectively only through a broad collective approach involving nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon, industrialized and developing, exporting and importing nations -- all of whom share a common interest in avoiding the dangers inherent in nuclear proliferation.

Comprehensive Test Ban

As in the case of both SALT and international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation system, there is also some basis for optimism with regard to the long-sought goal of a Comprehensive Test Ban. Year after year in this Assembly the immense majority of member states have insisted on the importance of achieving such a treaty. Certainly, Mr. President, we can feel particularly encouraged that serious formal negotiations have indeed begun involving all three of the nuclear weapon states upon which the onus rests, as original parties to the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963, to undertake such negotiations.

The views of Canada on this question have been repeated time and again. We have expressed the view that in this area it was incumbent upon the two major nuclear powers to set an example by agreeing to end their nuclear tests for a determined period of adequate duration, even if other nuclear weapon powers did not immediately join such an agreement. The recent announcement by Foreign Minister Gromyko at this session that the Soviet Union was now prepared to envisage stopping tests along with the United States and the United Kingdom represents a welcome development in the Soviet position, particularly insofar as it means that, as we have long advocated, progress on a definitive cessation of tests need not await participation by all nuclear weapon states.

There are clearly difficult hurdles to be surmounted involving problems such as verification, the scope of the agreement and the conditions for its entry into force. The pursuit of solutions to these problems will require time. In the seismological working group of the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Canada and other countries have already invested a great deal of technical effort concerning the contribution international cooperation in the exchange of seismological data can make to easing the verification problem. Canada welcomes the fact that the principle of such a data exchange seems to be accepted by the participants in the negotiations. Moreover, we have already stated in the Geneva Conference that in view of the lack of any convincing way of ensuring that so-called peaceful nuclear explosions do not provide weapons-related benefits, a Comprehensive Test Ban should prohibit all nuclear explosions. Surely the utility of peaceful nuclear explosions is

sufficiently doubtful that such uses of nuclear explosive energy should not be allowed to impede the achievement of an objective to which this Assembly has already assigned the highest priority.

We trust that this essential trilateral stage of the negotiations will be carried out successfully within a reasonable period so that the Geneva Disarmament Conference will be able to begin the multilateral phase of negotiation of a treaty. We believe that such a treaty should be adhered to on the broadest possible basis in order to address the proliferation problem in both its vertical and horizontal aspects.

Chemical Weapons Convention

With regard to efforts to achieve a convention on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, to which this Assembly has also assigned a very high priority, we note that this year there are much better prospects than existed last year. Negotiations are being pursued actively between the United States and the Soviet Union. We are encouraged by the fact that the two major military powers have recognized their special responsibility for taking the initiative of working out the key elements of a chemical weapons treaty. As is the case with the efforts to achieve the basic elements of a CTB, there remains much ground to be covered in these negotiations. But perhaps, Mr. President, it would be realistic to expect that the bilateral negotiations may be successfully completed in time for the Geneva Disarmament Conference to begin its work on the multilateral treaty before the Special Session of this Assembly devoted to disarmament meets next year.

Reduction of Military Budgets

Turning now to the question of the reduction of military budgets and an adequate reporting system, this is an area where efforts can probably best be pursued in a broad multilateral forum because such reductions should be implemented universally. My country appreciates the extremely valuable work which has been carried out by the Secretary General's study group and supports their recommendations. The viability of reductions in military budgets as a means of progress towards real disarmament on an assured basis rests upon the development of a satisfactory means for reporting and comparing military expenditures. It also clearly requires a much greater degree of openness on the part of states in making useful information available. This is, in our view, an avenue which should be pursued vigorously with the objective of devising a valid reporting system and adequate verification techniques to make military budget reductions a truly effective approach to disarmament.

Special Session on Disarmament

While reviewing, as I have been doing, the list of more promising opportunities for progress that we now have before us, I would place particular importance on the Special Session devoted to disarmament, which is to be convened next May. Provided that it pursues its deliberations in a truly collective and cooperative spirit, a spirit which I am happy to note has prevailed throughout the sessions of its Preparatory Committee so far, the Special

Session could and should provide an opportunity to reach a meeting of minds in identifying further avenues for progress in concrete arms limitation and towards more comprehensive measures of real disarmament.

Of course, such a broadly based forum cannot itself undertake the negotiation of specific measures and treaties. These will require intensive efforts in the appropriate negotiating bodies, including particularly the Geneva Disarmament Conference, which we now have good grounds to believe may be about to enter upon a period of renewed activity and importance. The Special Session could also provide us with an opportunity for a broad reassessment of the problems and the opportunities and of the inter-relationship between disarmament, international peace and security, and economic development.

My country joined in the initiative for the Special Session; we are pledged to play our full part in it and to contribute to making its deliberations as fruitful as possible.

Collateral Measures

To round out my survey of developments in the past year I might also mention both the signature by more than thirty governments of the Environmental Modification Treaty and the successful completion of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Seabed Treaty. These treaties are, we all know, limited agreements which deal with only hypothetical areas of arms control. While they are peripheral to the central issue of disarmament, they are worthy of our support as desirable ancillary measures. Nevertheless, we should not allow the negotiation of such agreements to detract our attention from the need for other measures that will tackle the more urgent problems. Indeed, the scope for further collateral measures of this kind seems very limited. We now have the opportunity to negotiate much more significant measures such as a Comprehensive Test Ban and a chemical weapons convention.

New Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Geneva Conference has also given careful consideration in the past two years to the best means of preventing any development and deployment of so-called "new weapons of mass destruction" -- that is, categories of weapons that might conceivably be developed in the future having effects analogous to the mass destruction weapons with which we are only too familiar. Those deliberations have, in our view, tended to clarify the very serious problems of trying to address this matter on what I might call a broad generic basis. I think it would be fair to say that we have been left in a state of considerable confusion as to just what hypothetical, futuristic weapons such a treaty would be supposed to deal with. Any attempt to base a comprehensive treaty on such a concept gives rise to serious problems of knowing what could be actually prohibited and how to verify compliance with such prohibitions. We note that the Soviet Union has presented a revised draft, and some elements of obscurity which many states found in the original draft have been somewhat diminished. Nevertheless, the view of my Government, following the intensive study that has been given to this problem in the Geneva Disarmament Conference, is that there are very serious practical difficulties standing in the

way of making the Soviet proposal effective as an arms control treaty. In sum, we believe the soundest way to proceed is to consider specific agreements to prohibit on a case-by-case basis particular new categories of mass destruction weapons when such specific weapons can be identified.

At the same time, we fully recognize the hypothetical element of risk which a future development of such new categories of mass destruction weapons might pose. We are therefore prepared to support a resolution that would call upon states to abstain from the development of new categories of mass destruction weapons and would request the Geneva Conference to consider specific international agreements.

Conventional Weapons

Without in any way diminishing the importance Canada attaches to these areas involving mass destruction weapons, it is our conviction that the international community must begin to address the problem of conventional weapons, and the production and transfer of such weapons, which has been ignored for so long. In our view, the Special Session should take the lead in identifying avenues to be explored in this particular area. The problem of conventional arms, and the escalating transfers of such weapons including the most sophisticated, is crucial to hope for the achievement of comprehensive disarmament or at least getting closer to it.

Conclusion

I have tried to identify some of the most important opportunities which at last seem to be unfolding before us, particularly in the areas of strategic arms limitations, a Comprehensive Test Ban and a chemical weapons treaty. Because it relates inter alia to fundamental questions of nations' perceptions of their security interests, arms control and disarmament is a difficult uphill task and the past has been fraught with frustration. There are, however, grave and pressing dangers inherent in a failure to make real progress. Moreover, other more constructive demands on the resources of all of us make clear that our efforts must be pursued with renewed determination.

It is right that we make every effort to consider as analytically and objectively as possible, the issues I have described. Emotion will not help us to understand properly the intricacies and the magnitude of the challenge of disarmament or to devise effective means to deal with them. Yet we must never lose sight of the underlying supreme task -- to ensure the security of us all by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the risk of war. Dare we hope that this year, perhaps more than in many previous years, we are on the verge of significant progress in this vital direction.

11. The UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation presented a comprehensive report to the XXXII Session of the General Assembly. This report was discussed in the Special Political Committee. As a

statement of Canada's position, Dr. Gordon Butler, member of the National Research Council and of the UNSCEAR, gave the following speech in the Special Political Committee, October 18, 1977.

* * * *

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the work of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The Committee last presented a comprehensive report in 1972. Since then a number of changes in the servicing of the Committee have occurred. The Secretary, Dr. Sella of Italy, has left to become the manager of the Global Environmental Monitoring System of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. He has been succeeded by Dr. Beninson of Argentina who is serving the Committee with distinction. The administrative and budgetary support for the Committee is now provided by the United Nations Environment Programme. The headquarters of the Secretariat have been moved from New York to Vienna where they are housed in the offices of UNIDO.

The new and closer ties with the Environment Programme seem to be harmonious and fruitful. In a speech at the April meeting of the Committee, Dr. Tolba, Director-General of the Environment Programme, said, "...we plan to give the Committee all the organizational and substantive assistance we can...". The Committee has been asked by UNEP to provide criteria documents for selected radioactive contaminants of the environment and this will be one of their preoccupations during the coming few years.

The 1977 report is one of the most comprehensive yet published and of the highest quality. I should like at this time to pay tribute on behalf of the Canadian Government to the hard work carried out in a most professional manner by Dr. M. Klimek of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. F.E. Stieve of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vice-Chairman, and Dr. K. Sundaram of India, Rapporteur, for the 24th and 25th sessions under whom the comprehensive report which we have before us has been prepared. Like the 1972 report it deals, respectively, with:

- Effects of radiation, including carcinogenic and genetic effects, and effects on prenatal development;
- Levels of radiation exposure from: natural sources, advanced technology, consumer products, nuclear power, nuclear explosions, and medical applications.

The report to the General Assembly is supported by two scientific annexes, one for each of these two subjects.

The report contains much new information helpful not only to scientists but to all those such as yourselves who are concerned with the risks to man resulting from exposure to ionizing radiations.

I should like to bring to your attention three features of the report that may be of special interest:

1. Table 3 of the Report to the General Assembly which provides a useful perspective by comparing the dose commitments from eight sources to which populations are exposed, including nuclear explosions during the past quarter-century.

2. The estimate that one year of nuclear energy production at the rate projected for the year 2000 would give a population exposure of 4% of that due to natural sources.

3. The dose commitments from nuclear explosions carried out since the period covered by the last report (1970-1976) have increased the dose commitments from strontium-90 and caesium-137 by 2% in the northern hemisphere and by 6% in the southern hemisphere.

The Canadian Government considers the work of the Scientific Committee to be important work. The Committee has shown us a rational way of assessing the impact of environmental pollutants, not only for the present but for the future as well. Since this problem will continue and may increase there is a continuing useful role for the Committee. On behalf of my Government I urge the Special Political Committee to support the resolution introduced by the distinguished representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic so that the important work of the Committee may continue.

12. Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

In its capacity as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as a country itself engaged in the implementation of space programs, Canada has a special interest in the work of the United Nations on questions bearing on outer space.

Canada has made an important contribution to the development of principles governing space technology, especially in the areas of live broadcasting by satellite (a field in which Canada has been working in close co-operation with Sweden for a number of years) and teledetection of technical resources from space. Our delegation put forward specific proposals intended to resolve those problems still before the Committee.

In Canada's opinion, it is urgent that the members of the United Nations pursue their efforts with a view to arriving at a legal framework for the regulation of this rapidly developing technology, in order to avoid the conflicts or controversies likely to be caused by abuses. Furthermore, an attempt must be made to remedy the lack of co-ordination of the efforts of the increasing number of countries involved in the field of teledetection.

Mr. William H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, made the following statement to the First Committee on November 23, 1977.

* * * *

It is a pleasure for me to take the floor once again in this Committee to place on record Canada's views on the two agenda items now before us, the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the formulation of a set of principles to govern direct television broadcasting by satellite. My Delegation believes that these items are of particular importance and looks forward to our debate in the anticipation that progress will be made in our attempts to resolve the issues involved.

Before I turn to these issues I would like to take this opportunity to express my Delegation's appreciation to the Government of Austria for inviting the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to hold its 20th anniversary session in Vienna. The welcome given by the President of the Federal Republic of Austria and the hospitality extended by the Government and people of Austria will long be remembered by the members of the Committee. I would like to note particularly the contribution made over the years by the Austrian Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in their capacities as Chairmen of the Committee. Ambassador Jankowitsch is carrying on this tradition of leadership with competence and distinction. I should also like to pay tribute both to the leadership of Ambassador Wyzner on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his Chairmanship of the Legal Sub-committee as well as to Professor Carver, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee.

This seems to be a year of anniversaries, and I think it would be appropriate and perhaps also salutary for us to note the accomplishments of recent years. It is twenty years since the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was founded, and twenty years since the first satellite was sent into orbit. Now man has walked on the moon and probes the secrets of the solar system and of other galaxies. Parallel with these remarkable scientific activities in outer space, much has been done on earth towards codifying international law in this domain. This is the tenth anniversary of the entering into force of the Outer Space Treaty, and three other important international legal instruments have also entered into force. Such achievements have demonstrated that the Committee is an effective instrument in resolving important issues of concern to Member States; for this we can, I think, be justifiably proud.

The Canadian space program has matured in the past twenty years, and it too has seen its share of accomplishments. It was in fact fifteen years ago, with the launch of Alouette I, designed and built in Canada, that Canada became the third nation to place a satellite in orbit. Subsequent Canadian

achievements in space science research, telecommunications, remote sensing and in other areas of space applications have been numerous and have been reported previously to this Committee. I need not repeat them now.

What I would like to repeat, Mr. Chairman, is Canada's continuing and increasing commitment to cooperate in the development of new technologies and new programs with other countries. Since last we reported to this Committee, for example, Canada has explored with the European Space Agency possibilities for increasing the degree of mutual cooperation. The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing has signed agreements to exchange information and personnel and to pursue mutually-agreed programs with the European Space Agency and with the Centre Nationale d'Etudes Spatiales of France. Following talks at senior levels, links are being forged with the appropriate Japanese space authorities for the exchange of information and the identification of specific and practical areas for cooperation. Finally, cooperation with our principal space partner, the United States of America, continues to grow. There have been a number of developments in the last twelve months, but perhaps the most significant has been discussions examining the possibility of developing a joint program for an experimental search and rescue satellite system which would supplement existing methods for locating aircraft and ships in distress. A number of other countries are also interested in this experiment, and it may be that a truly cooperative and truly international project will emerge.

I would like now to refer specifically to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I have already said that the Committee has accomplished much, and so I believe it has. Nevertheless, I am reminded that last year when speaking to this same agenda item, I took particular pains to sound a note of urgency, to state that if greater progress were not made, "technological developments, and the expectations of people around the world will together render our debate irrelevant". My Delegation is pleased that some progress has indeed been made since last year. However, much yet remains to be done and in our view there are two areas in particular in which further progress is necessary. The first of these is the question of direct television broadcasting by satellite.

In spite of the efforts of both the Legal Sub-committee and a working party of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it did not prove possible to complete a full draft set of principles on DBS during 1977. A development of relevance to the Legal Sub-committee's consideration of this issue was the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) held in Geneva earlier this year. This Conference, which developed detailed plans for the broadcasting satellite service in the 12 GHz band, based its work on the principle that intentional broadcasting by one state to another requires the agreement of the receiving state.

At the 16th Session of the Legal Sub-committee, Canada and Sweden jointly introduced a revised draft principle entitled "Consultation and Agreements", together with a draft preamble. These texts, which were consistent with the 1977 WARC, provided the basis for negotiations both in the Legal Sub-committee and in the parent committee. During both sessions, the Canadian and Swedish delegations urged the adoption of the compromise texts, which

represent an effective balance between the need to facilitate the orderly development of an important new area of technology and the need to protect the sovereign right of states to regulate their communications systems. Canada is convinced that the texts developed in New York and refined in Vienna can provide the foundation for consensus on a full set of principles at the next session of the Legal Sub-committee.

A second area of particular Canadian concern is remote sensing. Progress is being made in attempting to formulate a legal framework which might be established to govern remote sensing of the earth by satellite. In our view such a framework, based primarily on the identification of "common elements" in the various proposals which have been put forward, should reflect a balance between the need to ensure the greatest possible benefits to the world community through remote sensing activities, and the need to safeguard legitimate national interests.

Progress is also being made on the technical and scientific level as increasingly sophisticated radars are developed and remotely sensed data is found to have more and more applications. Where sufficient progress is not being made is on the organizational and political level. A number of delegations at the last meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space expressed concern over the lack of coordination of the increasingly disparate remote sensing efforts of a growing number of countries. As a result, the Canadian Delegation proposed, and the Committee agreed, that the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee give high priority to questions relating to the coordination on a global basis of remote sensing activities. This was a positive step, but a step which will be meaningless unless we are able to define more precisely what it is we want from remote sensing and how we should organize ourselves to realize our objective. In this connection, it is noteworthy that the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee in its report encouraged those countries which were contemplating the establishment of pre-operational remote sensing systems to consider their compatibility and complementarity with existing systems. Another idea which has been mooted in the past involves setting up a system or systems of internationally-owned satellites which would be coordinated by an international body, much like the World Weather Watch system of the World Meteorological Organization. This might be a good idea; it might be a bad one. What we are saying is that the present situation calls for more ideas, for imaginative and creative thinking, or the problems we face in this area will become intractable. It would not augur well for the efforts of this Organization to break down the barriers which have separated nations for years if we are unable to avoid polarization in this new and developing field.

My Delegation is pleased to note that some progress was also made during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee in regard to the technical definition of terms connected with remote sensing, including "data" and "information". Unfortunately, the Legal Sub-committee was unable to make use of them in its efforts to agree on a legal regime to govern remote sensing. The Canadian Delegation was thus gratified that the main Committee, at its meeting in Vienna in June, took a decision on this matter which is reflected in paragraph 39 of its report.

My Delegation is also pleased with the progress which is being made in considering the question of holding a second United Nations Conference on outer space. In our view this is a question which requires more careful study - study of the subjects such a conference would address, how it would be co-ordinated with other conferences, when it might most usefully be held and such organizational aspects as its financing. The establishment of a working party of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee to examine these questions as an important step, and we look forward to playing a constructive role in that working party under the capable and experienced guidance of Professor Carver.

In this connection, I should like to recall that, in paragraph 77 of the main Committee's report, mention was made of the desirability of governments submitting to the Secretariat at an early date their ideas and recommendations concerning this proposed Conference. If such submissions are received sufficiently in advance of the consecutive meetings in February, 1978, of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee and of this working party, the preparation of a comprehensive report, despite the inevitable pressures of time, may still prove possible.

Before concluding, I should like to make a brief allusion to one passage in the speech given on November 21 by the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Jankowitsch, in opening our debate. He referred at that time to the fact that the Outer Space Committee was not an "exclusive club" composed of Member States from the developed world. I should like to reiterate his sentiments and call for ever-increasing involvement in the work of the Committee by other Member States, particularly those from the developing world. Indeed, a number of countries have already availed themselves of opportunities to participate in the work of the main Committee and its two sub-committees in an observer capacity. We would, therefore, wish to support the resolution introduced by the Austrian Delegation calling for a study by the Outer Space Committee itself of the means by which wider participation in its work might be facilitated, whether through an expansion of its membership or through other methods. That having been said, it should perhaps be noted that one reason why the endeavours of the Committee to date have been accomplished in an efficacious manner is just because its membership, while fully consonant with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, has been kept to a manageable size.

Finally I would like to state that my Delegation is pleased to co-sponsor the omnibus resolution on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which has just been introduced this afternoon by the Austrian Delegation. The resolution makes very well the two points which have been the main theme of the Canadian Delegation's intervention, namely, that we note with considerable satisfaction the work which has been done but do so conscious of the work which yet remains unfinished. It is my Delegation's conviction that progress can be made during this next year, and in this collective effort I pledge Canada's full support and cooperation.

C. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

1. North-South Relations and the 32nd Session

The first Canadian speech in the Second Committee focussed on the current state of the North-South Dialogue, as seen from a Canadian perspective. The Canadian statement emphasized the positive results of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation and on the need for the agreements reached to be implemented. Also, the speech stressed that in areas where the Paris Conference did not come to agreed conclusions, further discussion should be undertaken in the UN and other fora. Although the difficulty of the ongoing negotiations was underlined (particularly in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and negotiations for the Common Fund for the integrated programme on commodities and debt relief), the statement reiterated Canada's commitment to successful conclusions. In addition, the Canadian statement expressed hope for the elaboration of a new international development strategy which would provide long-term guidance for the world system to accelerate the development process. The statement also touched on other matters before the Second Committee, such as the restructuring exercise, the World Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the institutional arrangements for human settlements and the International Year of the Child.

The following statement of Canada's position was made by Mr. John Small, Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, October 4, 1977.

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As the distinguished Under-Secretary General remarked at the outset of our debate, the work of this Committee at its 32nd session could be highly significant. We are at an important juncture in North-South relationships. While the Paris Conference reached some agreements which advanced the dialogue, the issues are now again under discussion within the U.N. system. It is up to us to find the ways to ensure continuing progress.

We hope that we can concentrate on solutions which are workable. There is no escaping the fact that we are in something of a dilemma. On the one hand, we all remain firmly committed to accelerated progress in North-South relations. On the other, continued sluggish economic circumstances in the world in general, and in certain industrialized countries in particular, are making accelerated progress difficult.

It is axiomatic that if economic conditions are worse in industrialized countries, even graver difficulties can be anticipated in many developing countries. We cannot expect developing countries to wait patiently for worldwide economic recovery to see action taken in their favour, particularly if their own circumstances deteriorate. Yet, at the same time we know that without economic recovery our capacity for substantive action is diminished.

Apart from this general dilemma, it is difficult to know how much progress has in fact been made. On the positive side, we know that developing countries, overall, have in the last 25 years moved toward industrialization at a rate of economic and social development which is without historical precedent. Yet, the world's poorest countries, where over half the planet's population lives, have seen their growth rates decline in the first half of this decade. Perceptions vary: at times the glass seems half full and at others, it seems to be half empty.

It is essential that our perceptions remain global and not simply national in perspective. Efforts must be made to accommodate the problems and points of view of others. Still more important, each must try whenever possible to avoid recourse to nationalist and protective measures. Signs have emerged of protectionist tendencies. These must be discouraged. It is important that the momentum for trade liberalization continue and be strengthened. Only on the basis of this framework can sufficiently productive structural changes be made to ensure enhanced opportunities for developing countries.

This is why my government continues to place great store in the multilateral trade negotiations. There is the promise that in the next several months these negotiations will attain the momentum which until now, for a variety of reasons, has been absent. The Tokyo Declaration identified the improved trading position of developing countries as being one of the explicit goals of the negotiations.

An important focal point of the North-South dialogue will be the common fund negotiations resuming in Geneva in November. The difficulties inherent in the negotiations should not be underestimated. The subject matter is both innovative and complex. If a common fund is to be of lasting value to those for whom it is designed, great care will be required to launch the new initiative on a sound basis. Canada's position was well described by Mr. MacEachen at the resumed 31st General Assembly session when he said "We want these talks to succeed and we'll work actively toward that end".

On the transfer of resources, commitments undertaken at the Paris Conference, both with respect to ODA generally and to the billion dollars Special Action Programme, are important. Canadian experience in development co-operation stretches back many years. Most recently, the Canadian strategy has emphasized the needs of the very poor developing countries. By far the major part of our bilateral assistance is directed to countries with an annual per capita income of less than \$200. Our experience in working with those countries has been particularly instrumental in giving us a very real perception of the difficulties of the development process. It is true that gains

have been made. Yet, the challenges remain overwhelming. Moreover, we have, with our friends in those countries, realized that speedy disbursement of development assistance funds can often be more difficult than expected. This has also been the experience for multilateral programmes to which Canada contributes over a third of its current development assistance budget of 1.1 billion dollars for this fiscal year. Yet, difficulties in disbursement should not in any way discourage even greater efforts.

In this regard, I should like to endorse the statement made by the Representative of the FAO that the IFAD agreement needs as a complement continued bilateral assistance in the area of agricultural development. Canada continues to regard rural development as an area of concentration for our aid programmes. The good harvests of the last three years should not obscure the need to work for world food security which can only be achieved by a three-pronged attack -- buffer stocks against future poor harvests, intensified agricultural development and food aid to cover immediate shortfalls.

We encourage all countries in a position to offer material support to the developing countries to do so. We have heard that some countries consider themselves to be exempt from this obligation on the basis that they are not ex-colonial powers. While such argumentation is open to debate, still more important, it is not relevant to the urgent needs of the development process. My country's only direct experience with the colonial system has been as a colony. Yet, we recognize and accept our responsibility, indeed privilege, to share in the process of development for the well-being of all. The important, over-riding, consideration is that we all recognize our obligations to the world community, to work toward an orderly, just and equitable world economic system, as a matter of urgency, but as a continuing process of change. We must at the same time also concentrate in the shorter term on direct development assistance to help out the neediest people in developing countries, and the poorest countries among us. Canada is committed to move toward the 0.7% target and we encourage all other countries in a position to do so to move in the same direction.

In response to developing countries' needs for additional official development assistance and as a major contribution to the one billion dollar special action programme in CIEC for the poorest countries, the Canadian Government converted into grants all past development loans to a number of least developed countries. The amount converted is in excess of a quarter of a billion dollars. Furthermore, Canadian Government Development Assistance to the least developed countries is now entirely on a grant basis. It was therefore of great interest to us to hear the remarks in this regard by the distinguished Swedish Minister of Overseas Development.

In the next few years we must construct a comprehensive strategy to overcome the fundamental problems at the source of the development process, and relate the external economic environment and system to this process. We have made considerable progress in the past two decades, and particularly in the last few years, but the world community's most lasting accomplishments in favour of developing countries still lie ahead.

The principal task in this context will be the formulation of the new international development strategy. From our point of view, the strategy must be a real and pertinent plan for dealing with basic conditions in developing countries. It should also, of course, serve as a framework document for North-South relations and progress toward a new international economic order. It should be a document with broad public appeal. We must be sure it is flexible and designed to provide long-term guidance as to measures and means for the world system to accelerate the development process. We must take the organizational steps necessary at this session for the elaboration of this strategy over the next few years. Since documentation and analysis must be prepared as soon as possible, we would think it important to decide before long on the basic directions the strategy is to take and think that inter-governmental meetings should take place in the next year for this purpose.

Under item 67 of our agenda, we can carry on with work in several specific areas of North-South economic relations at this session. For example, proposals have been made for consideration within the U.N. system of several vital questions which were under discussion at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Certainly the opportunity exists for discussing ways to move ahead on research and planning co-operation in energy. Other pressing questions in the trade and development area call for our attention -- the volume and quality of development assistance, structures in the system, access to markets, technical co-operation.

Of course, successful action here depends on whether our U.N. system can be made a more effective instrument, both for discussion of critical questions, and for implementation of development programmes. We very much hope that the necessary will can be brought to bear on the restructuring exercise so that we can agree in the next few weeks on constructive reform. In this regard, we wish to pay particular tribute to the tireless efforts of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring, Ambassador Ken Dadzie. We are confident his contribution will have made a lasting impact on this organization.

An important event in North-South relations will be the World Conference on Science and Technology. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General, Dr. Da Costa, and his efforts toward making the Conference an event whose significance will correspond to our expectations. The Canadian delegation will apply itself at this session to assisting Dr. Da Costa to intensify preparatory efforts and we look forward to a successful meeting in Geneva in January to further this process. In addition, we look forward to the contribution which will be made by the Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries.

Another matter of considerable importance is the need absolutely to reach a decision this session on institutional arrangements in the U.N. system for Habitat. Foreign Minister Waiyiki of Kenya was speaking for all of us when he reaffirmed in the plenary debate that a final decision must be taken by this Assembly. We renew our plea for a spirit of compromise. If delegations hold rigidly to set preferences to which others have real objections, the work of the U.N. in human settlements at its outset will suffer from a spirit of divisiveness. It is for this reason that the Canadian and Swedish delegations

to ECOSOC 63 proposed a solution which we considered then was the only possible basis of compromise and consensus agreement. This proposal, or one like it, may well remain the only basis for compromise. We look forward to discussing approaches with all other delegations when our work programme permits us more effectively to turn our attention to what we trust will be a decisive effort to reach a conclusion on this matter.

Another question to which the Canadian delegation attaches particular attention is the Year of the Child, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly last year. This session calls for a simple and straight-forward resolution devised to ensure the continuing success of this endeavour whose value has been underlined by the excellent work of UNICEF thus far. The Year of the Child is a modest exercise in terms of expense. However, it will have very real public impact in all our countries in a way which can only support our greater awareness of national and world problems, and which will provide for further public involvement in the United Nations in general and the development process in particular.

We are particularly grateful that this significant session of the Second Committee will be under your firm guidance and that again we have a bureau whose members enjoy the great confidence and admiration of the Canadian delegation as I am sure they do of all other delegations. We think we can accomplish much between now and the end of December. We followed with great attention the address to this Committee on Thursday of Dr. Perez Guerrero. We share his view that the United Nations now has the opportunity to rise to a major challenge. It is in this direction that the Canadian delegation looks forward to joining with others in striving for the common goals of progress and visible achievement.

2. Operational Activities for Development

The annual debate in the Second Committee on Operational Activities for Development is concerned with several of the major substantive programs of the UN system in the field of development assistance. Canada is a major financial contributor and active supporter of these programs which include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The Canadian statement referred to the significant resources pledged to the various programs covered by this item and called for the Administrator of the UNDP to continue to pay close attention to their effective utilization. Specific comments were directed towards the International Year of the Child, (UNICEF), the financial problems associated with non-convertible currencies, and a new Management Information System being implemented by UNDP with Canadian assistance.

The statement was given by Mr. John Small, Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee November 11, 1977.

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This debate provides an opportunity to establish an annual benchmark reflecting both financial and policy developments with respect to U.N. Operational Activities for Development. Happily, this year has seen a strengthening of both of these aspects of most of the programs and funds considered under this item. The results of the recent Pledging Conferences for UNDP and UNICEF indicated that considerable, if not yet completely sufficient, resources will be available for 1978.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

During 1977, the UNDP has undergone an important period of appraisal, evaluation, and strengthening. The financial crisis of 1975, which influenced last year's debate, has been overcome and corrective measures are being undertaken to remove many of the underlying causes of that crisis. New policy guidelines for the future role and activities of the UNDP were requested by the Administrator and the resolution adopted at the 24th Governing Council is a step in this direction. Equally important, the basic tenets of the program, the consensus of 1970 and the New Dimensions Decision of 1975, were re-confirmed. The ability of the UNDP Governing Council to adopt policies and procedures appropriate to changing circumstances without undermining the basic principles of the program was again demonstrated. These are positive developments as the UNDP commences implementation of the 2nd year of this Country Program cycle.

The 1978 Pledging Conference for the UNDP showed that a significant number of donor countries remain committed to the 14 percent target growth rate for the current Country Program cycle. By adhering to these guidelines, many of the difficulties associated with single year pledging are eliminated. Canada fulfilled its commitment with a contribution of C\$39 million, or a 14.7 percent increase over our 1977 contribution. The 1978 resources of the UNDP estimated at over US\$569 million will contribute significantly to world requirements for technical assistance. These financial resources show in clear and real terms, the confidence that governments, including my own, have in Mr. Bradford Morse as Administrator of the UNDP.

The management of the financial resources of the UNDP appears to us to be an area which needs our attention. The problem of finding a productive use for non-convertible currencies, which have accumulated since 1971 remains, in spite of the substantial volume of goods and services which are purchased in countries with such currencies. Responsible participation in the multi-national aspects of the program requires that resources be given in a form which can be completely utilized in the attainment of the program's

objectives. My Government sincerely hopes that every effort will be made by governments with non-convertible currencies which have accumulated within the UNDP, and by governments with accounts in arrears to exhibit their full participation in the programs by taking the necessary steps to eliminate these problems. In addition, it is hoped that the recipient developing countries will fully accept their responsibility for voluntary program costs. My Government sees the acceptance of this responsibility as an indication of the value which recipient countries place on the UNDP contribution to their development objectives.

The UNDP, as an inter-governmental organization, must remain sensitive to the world economy in which it operates. The country programming system, with its five year Indicative Planning Figures, requires skilful and prudent management of all its financial resources. The UNDP should take care to build into its management procedures, effective money management policies which take into account short and medium term currency fluctuations so that maximum use can be made of its financial resources.

The UNDP, like any other organ, must operate within its finite means. In order to maximize the impact of its project activity, all its resources must be employed as usefully as possible. Canada is pleased to participate in the UNDP's Integrated Systems Information Project and looks forward to the contribution which it will make to increasing and strengthening UNDP's management information and thereby the capacity of the UNDP to utilize its resources with maximum efficiency. Work has already commenced on this project and My Government has been assured that the UNDP's administrative, financial and personnel support is forthcoming at the level expected.

Canada wishes to reconfirm its support for the UNDP as the central funding agency in the U.N. system for technical co-operation. The broad support this program enjoys from both developed and developing countries, its organizational structure and network of field staff, its reliance on a country programme planning cycle and its experience in the multi-dimensional approach to technical co-operation, is unique. These assets require skilful management to permit their potential value to be realized. In this regard, Canada is pleased to see the increased emphasis that the UNDP is placing on evaluation as a major component of the project cycle. Steps being taken to strengthen the institutional memory within the UNDP are also welcome. In developing its role as the central funding and co-ordinating body for technical assistance within the United Nations development system, the UNDP has accepted the task of documenting and evaluating data on past projects so that future programs can expand and progress from a solid base of institutional experience.

As negotiations over the potential restructuring of the economic and social activities of the United Nations system advance, the considerable assets of the UNDP will obviously be required for any future organizational structure. Effective and working management of information systems will be even more important if organizational changes are made.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

My Delegation continues to monitor with interest the growth of the United Nations Capital Development Fund and noted the addition of new donors and the 10 percent increase in financial resources available to the Fund in 1978. In our view, this Fund fulfills an identifiable gap in development assistance programs by operating in a way that employs many existing resources. The results achieved by the fund with low overhead costs is particularly commendable. These operating procedures demonstrate positively that new mechanisms can be developed to fully utilize existing resources.

United Nations Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers organization has become useful and viable. Its value is not underestimated by my Government as it constitutes an important means of providing an additional measure of technical assistance and, in many instances, represents a concrete expression of TCDC. The benefits of this program are particularly valuable since they accrue not only to the recipient countries, but also to the volunteers themselves.

The bridging mechanism for financing the transitional stage of this program agreed to at the 24th Governing Council, is most appropriate in that it demonstrates that the program has now reached the stage of maturity and reputation whereby recipient countries are becoming more and more willing to support the program through their Indicative Planning Figures.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

The UNFPA has now become an established and mature organization, playing an important role as the principal funding and co-ordinating body for population activities within the U.N. system. The support of this Fund, by the large number of countries involved, indicates the importance of this work to overall development objectives. This is demonstrated by both the projects undertaken and the useful role the Fund plays as a conduit for the exchange of information and experience among all participants.

Given that the Fund's position provides it an opportunity to assess and measure overall world population activities, both multilateral and bilateral, my Delegation looks forward to receiving the views of the Fund's secretariat regarding the strategy for future inter-country activities.

My Delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Salas and his Colleagues for their achievements to date and encourages them to continue and maintain their efficient program and administrative activities.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The traditional support of my country for the United Nations Children's Fund has just been reconfirmed at the annual Pledging Conference. Our increasing financial contribution is an indication of our strong support for the work of UNICEF and for the leadership of Mr. Labouisse. Canada remains convinced that the basic services approach to development adopted by

the Executive Board of UNICEF in 1976 and endorsed by this Assembly last year is a useful supplement to the development efforts of the rest of the U.N. system and of the developing countries themselves. It is for this reason that the Canadian Delegation has participated actively in the elaboration of the resolution on the International Year for the Child (IYC) that has already been tabled. We hope that this Committee will see fit to adopt the resolution by consensus, thus signifying international support for the goals and objectives of the I.Y.C. and for Mrs. Lim and her associates.

We are also particularly conscious of the effective leadership UNICEF has been giving within this organization to the preparation for the Year of the Child. This special Year will have considerable value for the social development programmes of many nations, and for raising our collective consciousness concerning many of the problem areas of our respective societies.

World Food Programme (WFP)

Canada's contribution to the World Food Programme of an estimated \$150 million for the years 1977 and 1978 is only the most recent expression of our continuing support for the Programme's activities. The World Food programme's approach to the use of food for agricultural and rural development, and its role in the provision of emergency relief, are important to a significant number of countries. Concentration on the problems of the poorest developing countries finds a close parallel in the development assistance policies Canada is pursuing at the national level. We consider that the World Food Programme's past achievements and its plans for the coming period deserve our acknowledgement and support as a highly effective part of the United Nations system's operational activities.

Finally, the Canadian Delegation is participating actively in the exercise designed to restructure the economic and social sectors of our system, and notably with regard to those chapters and aspects which concern operational activities for development. We consider that proposals under discussion have indicated there is much we can do to enhance both the effectiveness and performance of these activities in our system in order to make them more attractive vehicles for development assistance from the point of view of both donor and recipient countries. Their increased effectiveness is not an end in itself. It is a means to make available and to attract additional resources. The end we seek is more effective action by all in favour of developing countries, an objective which must remain the overriding priority of the world community.

3. United Nations Environment Programme

Since the formation of the United Nations Environment Programme following the Stockholm Conference in 1972, Canada has been a firm supporter of UNEP as a means of stimulating world concern about the environment. The speech focusses on the interrelationship of environment and development as well as outlining Canadian initiatives taken at the fifth Governing Council to improve the quality of UNEP documentation. In addition, the Canadian

Delegation spoke about the recently concluded Conference to Combat Desertification and endorsed its plan of action. Finally, the statement announced the Canadian contribution of \$1 million to the Environment Fund for 1978.

The statement was given by Mr. John Small, Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, October 20, 1977.

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The subject of environment is not controversial. Indeed, environmental issues are ones which, to a considerable degree, have been dealt with in international fora by consensus. Does this consensus signify a lack of interest in such issues? To the contrary. It is the view of the Canadian Delegation that it is due to recognition of the environmental imperative. Renewable and non-renewable resources are the bases of most economies and the very basis of growth. Consequently, every country and every region must examine with care the implications of current and expected rates of use of renewable and non-renewable resources as well as the environmental impact of their exploitation.

Still not enough is known about the functioning of the world's ecological system for us to arrive at definitive conclusions at what the outer limits of growth are. Nevertheless, it is clear that the earth's resources are not inexhaustible, and, in particular cases, conservation and planned development are vital to sustained economic development. The United Nations Environment Programme has stimulated research into what specific environmental constraints and opportunities exist, in addition to undertaking its own research into the matter. Studies such as the programme on "Man and the Biosphere" carried out under the auspices of UNESCO, "Future of the World Economy" under the leadership of Dr. Wassily Leontief, and "Project 2000" designed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, are major contributions to the examination of the consequences of alternative patterns of development. The correlation between poverty and deplorable environmental conditions is all too visible and obvious for the basic interrelationship not to be a principal focus of developmental effort.

We are convinced that the automatic consideration of the environmental consequences of our actions should reinforce the development process. Such considerations are positive. They allow us to choose appropriate development patterns that encourage wise use of resources and ensure that new practices do not destroy the resources upon which they are based. In Canada, at the national level, we have recently developed environmental guidelines that provide for review of environmental impact before development of new federal projects begins. This approach is also increasingly being examined for application to cooperative development projects abroad. Although not a direct result of this policy, an interesting example of this approach was the

Berger Enquiry. This judicial enquiry, which lasted three years, delved into the social, economic and ecological impact of the construction of the pipeline to bring oil and gas from the far north of Canada and Alaska to the more populated southern regions.

Canada is pleased with the work of UNEP in encouraging sound development plans. Perhaps the most significant recent event was the Desertification Conference held from August 29 to September 9 in Nairobi. The long drought in the Sahelian Region of Africa that began in the late sixties dramatically focussed the attention of the international community upon the disruptive and disturbing consequences of ignoring the natural resource base. The "desert-creep" in this area alone has rendered useless 650,000 square kilometres of land once suitable for agriculture and grazing. Primarily through national and local measures, the plan of action to combat desertification adopted by the Conference aims to arrest this process and, where possible, to reclaim desert land for productive use. In the longer term, this should result in improved living conditions for the 14% of the world's population that lives in the drylands.

We recognize that many of the countries faced with problems of desertification are also among the least developed and, consequently, the international community should accept its responsibility to mobilize financial resources so that proper action can take place. At the Conference, a number of methods were put forward to generate these most needed resources. Canada is ready to continue to provide financial assistance through existing bilateral and multilateral programmes. Last June, Canada had the privilege to host a meeting of the Club des Amis du Sahel, an informal association of major aid donors and the members of the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). At this meeting, the Club adopted a long-term economic development strategy and action programme for the drought-prone Sahel region. The first generation programme (1978-1982) will cost an estimated three billion dollars. The success of this type of financing will be seen in the results. Official aid commitments to the region in 1976 reached about 860 million dollars, almost double the level of assistance committed in 1973.

Turning to the report of UNEP itself, which was so ably introduced by Dr. Telba in his statement last Monday, my delegation would like to register its satisfaction with the business-like and thorough fashion in which the Governing Council conducted the work of the fifth session. The maturing of UNEP as an organization in the U.N. system gives my delegation considerable confidence for the next five years. We are pleased with Dr. Tolba's efforts to set down programme goals for realization by 1982.

Canada believes in the catalytic and coordinating role of UNEP within the U.N. system and is aware of the advances made by UNEP in this direction.

We recognize the programme of UNEP is intended to be a reflection of the environmental activities of the entire U.N. system. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and other instruments need to continue to monitor and coordinate these activities so that an even closer relationship can be developed between the Secretariats of UNEP and other U.N. bodies.

Eventually, we would hope that the UNEP programme document would present a complete picture of the environmental activities of the U.N. system. In this context, we note with approval the invitation of the Governing Council to the governing bodies of all organizations in the U.N. system to authorize their executive heads to collaborate fully with the Executive Director of UNEP in the development of specific objectives for environmental programmes in the U.N. system. Further, we would reiterate the Canadian suggestion made at Governing Council 5 that member states might aid in this process by ensuring the coordination in environmental matters of their delegations to the governing bodies of other U.N. organizations.

At the fifth Governing Council, Canada also made a number of suggestions to improve the quality of UNEP documentation. In spite of encouraging developments in the past year, my delegation believes that the basic UNEP programme document needs further refinement if valid planning and evaluation of environmental activities in the U.N. system are to take place. At the last session, an informal working group of the UNEP Governing Council attempted to aid the Secretariat in the development of an improved format for the programme document. Among other things, the working group suggested that appropriate documentation would not only give the Governing Council the means to identify priorities but it would also serve as a management tool for the Secretariat itself.

We believe that one of the necessary developments would be the provision of more information about the total resources allocated to the stated goals and objectives. In this regard, we believe it is important not only to know what resources UNEP is providing in a subject area from both the fund and the regular budget, but also to have information about the resources being provided by all U.N. bodies in that particular field. Such budgetary information would aid the Governing Council in its evaluation of programmes, and the gathering of the required information would contribute to the process of coordination. The format suggested would concentrate on identifying, for each functional task and subject area, a number of more specific programme areas, which would be accompanied by corresponding objectives, targets and work plans to achieve those objectives. The Secretariat would report on successes or failures on reaching goals rather than on individual projects. The adoption of this form of documentation would enhance both the capacity to plan and to make programme and project evaluation.

As requested by the Governing Council, the Executive Director has transmitted to governments for their information the report of the informal working group on documentation, together with his comments on the document and its implications. The Canadian delegation urges governments to study both the document and the Executive Director's comments so that the Governing Council might give this question further consideration at its sixth session.

Canada is particularly satisfied with the decision taken by the Governing Council to convene a small working group on environmental law. Such a group within the context of UNEP is particularly well placed to develop international law proposals in the environmental field.

Similarly, we welcomed the decision to reconvene the intergovernmental group of experts on natural resources shared by two or more states, thus giving UNEP continued involvement in the development of principles of environmental law related to this specific question.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the Environment Fund. At its fifth session, the Governing Council endorsed the intention of Dr. Tolba to seek voluntary contributions for the next five-year cycle (1978-1981) from as broad a base of contributions as possible. The adequate financing of UNEP is a responsibility for all countries and we urge all those countries in a position to do so, to contribute to the Environment Fund. Since its inception five years ago, Canada has given five million dollars to UNEP. I am happy to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Canadian government will contribute one million dollars in 1978. Our future contributions will be based on our assessment of UNEP's performance. While Canada has already registered our concerns about the ability of UNEP to achieve the rates of expenditure set out for the medium term, there can be no doubt of my country's commitment to UNEP. Its concerns are universal. We have accepted the necessity for international environmental cooperation and we believe in the basic nature of UNEP and have confidence in its potential to achieve that cooperation.

The institutional follow-up to HABITAT has been raised in this debate. We have noted the proposal of one of our distinguished colleagues which appears to re-submit for our consideration an idea which much of the membership of this assembly has already demonstrated it cannot support. We respect the sincerity of the proposal and of the conviction that a Nairobi/UNEP solution is objectively and intellectually the preferable course. We equally respect the sincerity of the proposals of many other states in line with their conviction that New York/ESA is the preferable course. We must reiterate, that it would seem to us to be an ineffective use of the little time we have available for the proponents of either extreme to propose again a resolution setting forward that extreme for our consideration unless there is demonstrable evidence that opposition to their point of view has been won over. A compromise solution such as the Nairobi/ESA proposal Sweden and Canada advanced at ECOSOC 63, in our view, is the only basis for consensus. Moreover, it is the only solution which realistically recognizes that human settlements questions are neither exclusively environmental nor exclusively developmental in nature. They are a mixture of both. One can no more separate human settlements from their economic and social framework than one can separate the man-made environment entirely from the natural environment. The Sweden-Canada proposal recognizes this. Moreover, without a compromise there will be no human settlements follow-up at all. We do not propose at this point to develop the matter further except to add that the Canadian delegation will be devoting its energies at this session, as at the last, to reaching a consensus decision on the follow-up to HABITAT.

4. The Report of the World Food Council

Canada's commitment to the establishment of a system under which the world's people will no longer face the threat of massive shortages and deprivation goes back many years. In the United Nations system, this commitment first found expression in active participation in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Other expressions of Canada's interest include the appointment of the former Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. G.N. Vogel, as Executive Director of the World Food Programme (to which Canada is contributing an estimated \$150 million for the years 1977-78) as well as Canada's planned contribution of \$7.5 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development at the end of this month, and is contributing \$33 million for the first three years of the Fund's operation.

Canada's close association in the work of the World Food Council underlies its role as a co-sponsor and initiator of a resolution that calls on the General Assembly to adopt and implement the Manila Communique of the World Food Council.

The Communique underlined that while the world food supply situation in 1977 is a good deal more reassuring than that of the early Seventies, it is by no means certain that this improvement will continue. It therefore called for action "to accelerate food production ... create an adequate food reserve, to expand and improve food aid, to improve human nutrition and to liberalize and improve food trade". This is to be achieved by giving high priority to a set of long-term and more immediate steps, to be taken by both developed and developing countries, as part of an integrated programme of action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

The following statement was given by Mr. John Small, the Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, November 8, 1977.

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Food problems so directly affect the existence and prosperity of individuals and nations that it is difficult to name an issue of more immediate and universal concern. Some countries, Canada among them, are in the fortunate position of growing more than enough of the major food crops needed for domestic consumption. But we all know that the situation elsewhere is far removed from this and that in some cases perennial difficulties with food are a major obstacle to national well-being and economic development. The international community's recognition of this fact has led to the establishment of numerous institutions designed to co-ordinate action and promote progress in the various areas concerned. Today, our discussion of the Report of the World Food Council, so ably introduced by the Council's distinguished Chairman, the Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines, Mr. Arturo Tanco, gives me the opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government of the

Philippines for making possible the productive session held in Manila last June, and to Secretary Tanco for his most effective chairmanship and for his excellent presentation to the Committee.

The World Food Council's Report is notable first and foremost for the Manila Communique: a Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition. Rarely have the issues in this field been addressed in such a comprehensive and far-reaching document. My delegation wishes to put our support for the Communique on record here, as we did in Manila, and joins in calling for its adoption by the General Assembly and its implementation by Member States. In this connection I would like to take a few minutes to summarize our views on the major substantive questions raised by the Communique.

On food production, Canada agrees with the idea of designating food priority countries and making special efforts to help these countries. We are already helping to increase food production in the poorer countries, a fact that is reflected in the doubling of the proportion of our bilateral assistance programmes devoted to assistance to agriculture. We are prepared to do more. Canada is scheduled to ratify the IFAD Agreement later this month, and we have pledged \$33 million for the initial three year period. Further, we are in effect already giving special treatment to many of the food priority countries thanks to our development assistance programmes' focus on the least developed countries.

At the same time, we look to developing countries to make firm decisions to give agriculture a higher priority and to transfer a higher proportion of their resources to production in that sector. In Canada we have emphasized the importance of planning and developing an effective policy framework to give farmers the incentives they need to increase their investments and efforts. There is much that developing countries can do along these lines and, as the Manila communique recommends, the planning efforts should be furthered by help from the U.N. agencies. In turn, the World Food Council should maintain a watching brief with respect to the use made of outside assistance by developing countries.

Canada supports the objective of world food security and the principle of maintaining the necessary reserve stocks. With the stocking practices of our Wheat Board marketing system, we are in a position to cover emergency requirements as well as aid pledges and commercial commitments, and thus we have no need to convert a proportion of our stocks into national reserves. We believe that reserve stocks arrangements should be concluded as part of a possible new International Wheat Agreement since in this way the requirements of food security and market stability can be harmonized to a significant extent. Since the benefits from such arrangements would be shared by all, the same should be true for the costs, in which the importers should share as well as the exporters.

In considering the question of food security, we must not forget that food security is not possible without maintaining continued high levels of production. Farmers respond to market incentives and, if prices are too low, they will grow less food. Thus, for food security, it is essential that producers receive adequate prices. For such reasons, market stabilization and food security must be considered together and, for this, the appropriate venue is the International Wheat Council.

It is my government's intention, subject to Parliamentary approval, to contribute \$7.5 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve. At current prices, this is the estimated equivalent of 50,000 tons or 10 percent of the Reserve's total target.

Canadian programmes in the field of food aid already accord with the recommendations of the World Food Council. First, we have long contributed substantially to the World Food Programme, and we are giving an estimated \$150 million for 1977-78. More recently, Canada accepted the concept of forward planning at the World Food Conference and pledged one million tons of food grains annually for the fiscal years 1975, 1976 and 1977. At the same time we also believe that recipient countries too might commit themselves to forward planning in the context of formulating their own national food plans.

My delegation believes that more attention and effort should go into solving the problems of malnutrition. In our view, efforts to improve nutrition should be integrated with more general efforts to improve health and increase agricultural production. This is because it is not possible to consider nutritional problems in isolation. Secondly, efforts should be focussed on vulnerable groups such as children and nursing and expecting mothers. Third, we hope that developing countries will develop greater self-sufficiency in the area of nutrition so that programmes are not disrupted and people are not harmed in the event that external support is not forthcoming.

Finally, I want to say a word about food trade. This is a question that we believe should be discussed primarily within the Multilateral Trade Negotiations of the GATT and in the International Wheat Council. In our view, participation in these negotiations and in any agreements which may result from them should be as wide as possible.

As a major agricultural exporter Canada has a special interest in the subject we are discussing today. We have endeavoured in the past through our participation in bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes and through steps such as our funding of the International Development Research Centre, which is engaged in work in this field, to make a constructive contribution toward the resolution of food problems. I welcome this opportunity to reiterate Canada's intention to do its part in achieving progress in this fundamental area of human endeavour.

Thanks to good harvests in many countries, the past few years have been a time of improvement in the world food situation. For Canada, 1977 once again has been a reasonably good year in agricultural production. My delegation believes that the international community should take every advantage of the opportunity for positive action offered by the present state of affairs. Above all, we should give the fight against hunger and malnutrition the sustained priority and attention that alone will enable us to find long-term solutions to world food problems.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

1. Alternative Approaches and Ways and Means within the UN System for Improving the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The protection and promotion of human rights is a major concern of the United Nations. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United Nations has adopted several other declarations and legal instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and/or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which were to have established international standards of behaviour. Human rights, however, have continued to be a controversial subject and once again basic differences of opinion on this subject appeared and resolutions reflecting these differences were discussed at length. Many delegations, including the Canadian delegation, believe the UN should establish an Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights to promote universal respect for human rights, co-ordinate United Nations human rights initiatives, and investigate, when requested, reported violations of human rights. The major criticism of this proposal was that such an Office would inevitably interfere in the internal affairs of states. It was further argued that a High Commissioner for Human Rights would impose common standards on countries with very different problems and would not take these differences, particularly those of an economic nature, into account. Canada believes this argument was unfounded as the High Commissioner for Human Rights would not be able to function without the consent and cooperation of states, thus making interference in the internal affairs of states impossible. Furthermore, while accepting the importance of economic development and the indivisibility of human rights, Canada could not support the thesis that enjoyment of any rights was dependent upon realization of economic rights.

The resolution referred to in the statement as L.17/Rev.1 stressed the importance of economic rights and the essential indivisibility of all rights. The other resolutions, referred to as resolution L.25/Rev.1 called for the establishment of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. L.17/Rev.1 was adopted by the General Assembly. L.21/Rev.1 was not voted on in the Third Committee and thus could not be voted on in Plenary. Canada supported both resolutions in the Third Committee and would have preferred a vote on both in Plenary.

Ambassador Pierre Charpentier, delivered the Canadian statement to the Third Committee on November 22, 1977.

a. The Canadian Delegation has had an opportunity under items discussed earlier this Session to outline its general views on human rights question within the U.N. system, and we wish at this time simply to enumerate some additional considerations which appropriately fall under the purview of Item 76, Alternative Approaches and Ways and Means of Promoting Human Rights. In the interest of brevity, we will restrict ourselves to discussing some of the more basic elements likely to be discussed under this item. But we wish to reserve our right to speak again at a later date should new issues arise on which we would wish to record our opinions.

The Canadian Delegation sees three basic points as fundamental to any general discussion of human rights. First, there is no question in our minds that the long-term efforts of the international community should be directed towards universal enjoyment of human rights by all individuals and all peoples on a uniform, consistent basis. We recognize the obstacles which now block the attainment of this objective. The world is not socially and culturally homogeneous, and it is therefore difficult to find general human rights standards which apply to a broad range of circumstances. Nevertheless, we should not lessen our resolve to develop and apply such standards as will meet the concerns and interests of member states and at the same time promote the ultimate goal of assuring all individuals and peoples of the full enjoyment of the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We also recognize that human rights are essentially indivisible and interdependent. A number of rights - freedom from torture, from slavery, and from arbitrary or illegal actions - can and should be guaranteed by all states, irrespective of economic, social or political circumstances. But it must be acknowledged that, as long as a great proportion of the world's population is without the most fundamental requirements to sustain life, our efforts to promote human dignity will be slow and difficult. By the same token, it goes without saying that in states which lack the resources to provide for basic human needs, the full enjoyment of rights is impossible. We should all agree, first, upon the principle that human rights are central to the concerns of the world community and, second, upon the desirability of working towards the full realization of rights without prerequisites or preconditions.

Second, the Canadian Delegation wishes to emphasize that the United Nations has a vital role to play in implementing the rights enunciated in various declarations, resolutions and international legal instruments. We recognize that states have a primary responsibility in fulfilling their obligations through unilateral action. No-one seriously questions the rights of sovereign states, or has proposed that sovereignty be curtailed. In the past thirty years, however, we have come to appreciate the role of multilateral bodies which can complement the work of member states. The Canadian Government believes that these institutions are fully consistent with the principle of respect for national sovereignty. We believe as well that more states should participate in their activities and deliberations. One of the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations is the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights. All states have a duty to ensure that the United Nations as an organization lives up to this principle.

Third, the Canadian Delegation believes that there is often a wide gap between the obligations assumed by states and the adequate discharge of those obligations. Similarly, there is a gap between the machinery which currently exists at the multilateral level to promote our common objectives and the machinery which is truly desirable if we are serious about implementing effectively the principles of the Universal Declaration. We believe that the institutions currently in existence within the U.N. system need to be strengthened and enhanced. Where deficiencies exist, they must be remedied.

Two of the resolutions which have already been tabled meet many of our concerns. We support the proposal to establish a new office within the U.N. system to co-ordinate human rights efforts and to offer good office functions to all member states. The proposal to create a High Commissioner for Human Rights has been before various U.N. bodies for a number of years. There is, therefore, no need to repeat arguments in support of its creation. We wish simply to state that the proposal is, in our view, consistent with the purposes of the U.N. Charter, and poses no threat to national sovereignty. It is a practical response to a practical problem, and should not be immersed in the murky waters of ideological confrontation. The Canadian Delegation would emphasize that a genuine and concerted effort has been made to meet the views and interests of many delegations which have hitherto expressed doubts about the usefulness or appropriateness of the proposal. We now hope that this Committee can support the effort to co-ordinate our common objectives more fully and to strengthen the means at our disposal for promoting and protecting human rights.

We also believe that, as suggested by resolution L.17, it would be appropriate for the U.N. to set priorities in the human rights field for the next few years. It is scarcely a secret that gross and persistent violations of human rights occur in a number of regions of the world. The international community should address itself to these problems on an urgent and priority basis. The Canadian Delegation recognizes that the establishment of priorities is never an easy task. Numerous international problems currently confront the U.N., and their relative importance necessarily depends upon the perspective of the member state. For our part, we have our own views as to which problems should be considered priorities for the international community. We are prepared to work in good faith with all other delegations in a common effort to find a range of priorities which can command universal support, and which can therefore become the basis of strong and concerted international action.

The Canadian Delegation believes that this Item is of utmost importance to the future work of the United Nations in the human rights field. We look forward to a constructive debate which will see the emergence of new and useful proposals to implement our common objectives.

b. After discussion is completed in Committee, the draft resolutions are forwarded to Plenary for adoption by the General Assembly. Here delegates are given further opportunity to explain their votes on the draft resolutions before them. The following statement was given by Mr. Claude-Andre Lachance, M.P., on December 16, 1977 in explanation of Canada's vote:

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The Canadian Delegation voted in favour of draft resolution L.17/Rev.1, which seeks to establish a set of priorities or concepts to guide future action in the human rights field within the U.N. system. The Canadian Delegation agrees that the establishment of priorities is a valuable exercise. While there exist throughout the world flagrant and massive violations of human rights, it is only reasonable that the United Nations should address itself principally to these most serious abuses. The exercise of establishing priorities is not, in our view, in any way inconsistent with the stated objective of Canadian policy, which is to ensure the full and complete enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons in every region of the world.

Despite Canada's positive vote on this resolution, however, there are certain difficulties in its balance and approach which we wish at this time to clarify. First, we do not agree that the range of priorities as outlined in L.17/Rev.1 is as balanced as is desirable. Although we concur with the priorities accorded to the rights enumerated in the first operative paragraph, we believe that more recognition must be accorded to gross and persistent violations of the worth and dignity of the human person, such as torture and genocide. We also believe that more emphasis should be placed upon the fundamental human rights of individuals, so that the U.N. might act against limitations on freedom of thought, speech and religion, which are abuses of human rights all too pervasive in many areas of the world. The Canadian Delegation will continue to work in the future towards establishing a range of priorities which, in our view, represents a more comprehensive view of the needs of both persons and peoples.

The Canadian Delegation also regrets that resolution L.17/Rev.1 contains little concerning the establishment of effective machinery in the human rights field. In our view, the process of establishing priorities and setting standards must be accompanied by the creation of means whereby the international community can assist in the promotion and protection of human rights. The creation of a post of a High Commissioner for human rights, as had been discussed under this item, might have greatly assisted in the process of promoting human rights as well as of re-examining the priorities of the international community. For this reason, the Canadian Delegation regarded the proposals for a High Commissioner for Human Rights and for the approach to human rights set forth in resolution L.17/Rev.1 as essentially complementary. We hope that all delegations will be in a position shortly to re-examine the proposal to establish an office of High Commissioner in light of the debates

which took place this year. We are equally hopeful that the Commission on human rights and the next session of the General Assembly will see the emergence of proposals to enhance the effectiveness of U.N. machinery for the benefit of all member states.

The true test of the concepts outlined in resolution L.17/Rev.1 will be the collective resolve of the world community to combat gross and persistent violations of human rights wherever they occur. The U.N. has rightly addressed itself to the human rights situation in Chile. We believe that this organization must be equally vigilant and rigorous in its application of accepted standards to situations in other states. There can be no reason for our failure to act on the situation in Uganda, for example, where violations of human rights continue to be persistent, and the Canadian Delegation regrets that we did not have the opportunity to address ourselves more completely to this particular issue. In our view, the provisions of resolution L.17/Rev.1 apply to all situations where flagrant abuses exist. Only when we translate the spirit of this text into concrete and effective action for the benefit of our fellow man will we have demonstrated our faith in and commitment to the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. Human Rights in Chile

In 1973 the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities recommended to the General Assembly that reports of violations of human rights in Chile should be investigated. In 1974 an ad hoc working group to investigate the situation was established and has since submitted annually reports to the General Assembly. The ad hoc working group has tried but has not been permitted to enter Chile and their reports are prepared without the benefit of a visit to Chile.

The Third Report of the working group was discussed at the Thirty-Second Session in the Third Committee. The following statement was given during the discussion by Mr. W.C.Y. McGregor, Canadian Delegate in the Third Committee, on December 6, 1977.

* * * *

The Canadian Delegation wishes at this time to comment on those portions of the report of the ECOSOC which refer to the human rights situation in Chile. We wish to reserve our right to speak again on other issues which may also fall under Item 12.

The Canadian Delegation wishes to thank the distinguished chairman of the Working Group for his lucid introduction of the report on human rights in Chile. The Working Group has presented a report which we consider balanced and thorough. It recognizes, for example, that in the past year the situation with respect to human rights has improved. Incidences of torture have

decreased, as have the numbers of political prisoners, arbitrary arrests, unjustified detentions and disappearances. Unfortunately, these improvements have only been partial, and in many cases marginal. Moreover, many improvements have merely been changes from one form of violation of human rights to a less brutal form. The Canadian Delegation shares the view expressed by the report that fundamental respect for human rights has not yet been restored to Chile, and indeed some types of violations of the human person have become systematic and institutionalized. We view this situation more with sorrow and regret than with anger--for Chile is a country which had until recent years enjoyed a long and renowned tradition of civil liberties.

To the Canadian Delegation, the basic question of human rights in Chile is fairly straightforward. The moral dimensions of the case are clear. We do not accept that any state has the right to deprive its citizens of the enjoyment of their rights in arbitrary, unjust and degrading fashions. Whatever the source from which we may draw our fundamental moral precepts, there must be prohibitions against assaults on the very dignity and worth of human life. The legal case is equally clear. The Government of Chile has undertaken certain legal obligations. It has, for example, accepted through membership in the United Nations the Charter obligations of member states, which find their most eloquent expression in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, Chile has ratified the international human rights covenants, which fix in an undeniably firm manner the obligations of states to respect clearly defined standards of human rights. To put the matter plainly, the Government of Chile has failed to live up to its obligations. In failing to do so, it has thereby become a legitimate subject of international attention and scrutiny. This attention should continue. We do not believe that it should cease until it has become demonstrably certain that these international undertakings are being met in a manner consonant with the letter of the Covenants.

The Canadian Delegation could not help but be struck by the disparity between the statements made by the distinguished chairman of the Working Group in introducing the report and those made by the distinguished Ambassador of Chile in his remarks to this Committee. This is hardly the time or the place to comment in detail on differences in interpretation and opinion. But, in our view, the fact that such disparities still persist is in itself a justification for further work by investigative bodies. The Canadian Delegation wishes to appeal once more to the Government of Chile to admit into Chile all members of the Working Group, so that a thorough and impartial examination of available evidence can be held. We wish to point out, moreover, that if the international community is to believe the Government of Chile when it professes concern for human rights, the only tangible way of demonstrating this concern is by allowing the entry of the Working Group on terms consistent with its mandate.

The broad story of human rights in Chile is told in the report of the Working Group. But we wish to make special mention of one particular problem which, in its own way, demonstrates the lack of responsiveness by Chilean authorities on human rights questions. We all know of the hunger strike earlier this year at ECLA headquarters in Santiago by relatives of certain persons who had disappeared under unsettling circumstances. The

demonstration ended with firm undertakings by the Chilean Government that it would investigate the cases of thirty-six disappeared persons and that it would refrain from taking any reprisals against any of the participants in the demonstration. In the view of the Canadian Delegation, both of these promises have been violated. With respect to the thirty-six disappeared persons, the reply by Chilean authorities is totally unsatisfactory. In fact, the reply can scarcely be said to constitute an investigation. As to reprisals, this commitment, too, has been broken. One of the women who had participated in the hunger strike is a member of a three-person delegation which had been in New York and which travelled to Ottawa to present details of their cases to the Canadian Government. We now learn that this woman and the other two members of the group have not been permitted to return to their own country.

The Canadian Delegation is astonished that a state which professes concern for human rights could act in such an arbitrary fashion. We find this action morally and legally unacceptable. It is only fitting to point out tragic human consequences which follow such behaviour. Too many persons have suffered unnecessarily in pursuit of reasonable answers to reasonable questions, and it is time for forthcoming and humane responses which can ease the sorrow of a truly tragic situation.

As a final point, the Canadian Delegation wishes to reiterate its fundamental concern with the practical problem of restoring respect for human rights in Chile. We do not favour condemnations or denunciations where they can be avoided; nor do we necessarily believe that this type of action will bring about the best possible results in any given case. There are a number of ways by which governments can assist the process of restoring human rights, and these will vary from circumstance to circumstance. But we believe that international pressure must be the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of the United Nations' human rights efforts. Pressure must continue to be exerted on the Government of Chile until the Working Group can report to its full satisfaction that respect for human rights has indeed been restored in Chile.

3. The Decade for Action and World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

In 1973 the General Assembly declared the period 1973-1983 a Decade against Racism and adopted a programme of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which included holding a World Conference on Racism in 1978. The Decade enjoyed considerable support until 1975, when the General Assembly passed resolution 3379 (XXX) linking zionism with racism. Canada could not support any reference to zionism as racism and subsequently withdrew support for the Decade and the World Conference. Since 1975, however, there has been an effort to return to the original purpose of the Decade.

The resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during its sessions in 1977 contain no mention of zionism as racism and no reference to the controversial resolution 3379 (XXX). Canada and many other Western countries were thus able to vote in favour of the resolutions on the Decade and World Conference at ECOSOC and subsequently at the 32nd Session of the General Assembly. A statement was given during the Third Committee debate

October 3, 1977 by Mr. W.C.Y. McGregor, the Canadian Delegate to Third Committee, explaining Canada's renewed support for the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. On December 16, 1977, a further explanation of vote was given by Miss Coline Campbell, M.P., concerning Canada's attitude towards the World Conference.

The following statement was given by Mr. McGregor in the Third Committee.

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a. Statement in Third Committee

The programme of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as adopted at the 28th Session of the General Assembly in 1973, contains an ambitious and comprehensive series of goals and objectives at the national, regional and international levels, the ultimate aim of which is the eradication of the scourge of racial discrimination. We are pleased to report that since 1973 the programme of the Decade has been the subject of widespread interest in Canada, and was one of the principal elements responsible for federal-provincial discussions and decisions which, among other things, enabled Canada to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the latter's related Optional Protocol.

The Canadian Delegation attaches particular importance to the programme for the Decade because, in our view, it contains the two key elements which are fundamental to any practical discussion of human rights: first, the programme recognizes the necessity for the extensive dissemination of information pertaining to fundamental rights and freedoms, with a view to the full realization of the ideals expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; second, the programme also recognizes the necessity for effective "recourse procedures" which may be invoked by individuals who believe that their fundamental human rights and freedoms have been violated. The need for recourse procedures, as defined in Article 12(a)(iv) of the programme for the Decade, is an implicit recognition that abrogations of human rights occur in all countries, regardless of our sincere and diligent efforts to promote the ideals of the Universal Declaration. For its part, Canada has accepted the need for disseminating as widely as possible information on the Decade for Action, and programmes have been developed to ensure that all Canadians are cognizant of the international efforts to end racism and racial discrimination. Within the past few months we have also established a Canadian Human Rights Commission which, in conjunction with similar commissions functioning in all ten provinces, constitutes a comprehensive framework for investigating allegations of violations in a manner consistent with the recourse procedures outlined in the programme for the Decade. The Canadian Human Rights Commission is headed by Mr. Gordon Fairweather, formerly Attorney-General of the province of New Brunswick, an eminent jurist who has had a long and distinguished career in the Canadian House of Commons.

At the international level, the programme for the Decade suggests important steps available to governments and to regional organizations to combat racial discrimination. Most particularly, the programme has focussed on racism and racial discrimination in Southern Africa. In the view of the Canadian Delegation, this emphasis is both justified and commendable, since it is in Southern Africa -- in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa -- that the spirit and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations are most seriously flouted. Indeed, at question in Southern Africa is nothing less than the issue of the collective willingness of members of the United Nations to develop and to institute truly effective mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world.

The Canadian Delegation looks forward to the adoption of resolutions which would, first, stand as an earnest record of our collective resolve to fight racism and racial discrimination and, second, demonstrate the effectiveness of the United Nations system as a vehicle by which the aspirations and ambitions of the people of the world may be realized.

For its part, the Canadian government wishes to stress that the problems of Southern Africa, although rooted in common racist origins, are likely to be solved by different approaches in different areas. Without reiterating the policy of the Canadian government on Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, which has been fully stated in the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, we wish to state that we are willing to cooperate in all efforts to ensure peaceful solutions to these problems. At this crucial stage, however, when progress is being made and the salutary effects of the Decade are beginning to be felt, we would not think it prudent to adopt resolutions which might seek to prejudice the outcome of current negotiations, to suggest solutions or sanctions which might more profitably be discussed in other U.N. fora, or to dictate a military solution while the possibilities of effecting peaceful change are still available.

Many states were doubtful in 1973 that the Decade for Action constituted an effective or a sufficiently strong vehicle for ending the scourge of racial discrimination. Four years later, we see that movement on this issue has been significant, and that the possibility of obtaining meaningful change is now within our grasp. In 1973, the Canadian Delegation expressed its hope that racial discrimination could be effectively eliminated within the time allotted to the Decade for Action. We now believe that important steps can be accomplished before the convening of the World Conference Against Racism, which is designed to highlight the common objectives of the world community. The Canadian government wishes at this time to reassert our support for the programme of the Decade and state once more our willingness to work with all states in a common effort to promote human rights and to put an end to practices and customs which constitute an affront to humanity and a violation of international obligations.

b. The following statement was given by Miss Coline Campbell in explanation of Canada's vote on the resolution in Plenary.

The Canadian delegation has voted in favour of the resolution adopted under Item 75, World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. We support this text, as we did an earlier resolution in Item 74, Decade for Action to Combat Racism, because we wish to emphasize the resolve of the world community in eliminating a scourge which has for too long obstructed our common efforts to promote the spirit of the universal declaration of human rights. At the same time, we wish to make clear the basis upon which the Canadian Delegation has supported these texts.

In recent assemblies, the Canadian Delegation has opposed the inclusion of an alien and unacceptable element into consideration of various resolutions on the Decade Against Racism and the world conference on racism. In our view, these elements compromised the objectives of these resolutions, and threatened their eventual success. This year, we are conscious of the concerted efforts which have been made to restore the Decade and the Conference to their original purposes, as defined in resolution 3057 of November 2, 1973. For this reason, we supported resolutions on these questions at the 62nd session of ECOSOC and, more recently, in the Third Committee of this session of the General Assembly. The basis of our support for the Decade and the World Conference is our interpretation of the term "Racism", as defined in Article 1 of the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination, as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin". This definition will continue to be understood as the basis of Canada's support of the Decade, and will be one of the elements which will eventually determine the decision of the Canadian Government with respect to participation in the World Conference Against Racism to be held in 1978.

We are especially pleased to note that the questions relating to the venue of the Conference and to NGO participation at the Conference have now been settled. As to the latter issue, the Canadian Delegation considers that it is of the utmost importance to ensure the most effective participation possible so that the most comprehensive range of views can be taken into consideration in the results of the Conference. The Canadian Delegation, therefore, interprets the rule which has been adopted with respect to NGO participation at the World Conference as including the ability of NGO's to make oral presentations.

The Canadian Delegation wishes to affirm at this time its strong support for all efforts to promote a climate of opinion in which the evils of racism and racial discrimination can be successfully combatted. These are the aims of established Canadian policy, and this is the basis of our support for resolutions on the Decade for Action and the World Conference Against Racism.

4. Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

In 1975, the period 1975-1985 was declared by the General Assembly as the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. The Assembly also requested the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which was presented to the Third Committee for discussion on October 17, 1977, Dr. Julie Loranger, Co-ordinator, Office of the Status of Women and Special Adviser to the Canadian Delegation on the Third Committee, expressed the views of the Canadian Government.

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As we prepare to consider item 85 on our agenda, the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace, my delegation welcomes the opportunity to make a few comments both on efforts to improve the status of women in general and on the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in particular.

My delegation would like first to commend the Commission on the Status of Women for its diligent efforts to complete the text of a draft Convention for consideration at this Session of the Assembly and we hope that it can be adopted this year. I can assure you that we will participate in the discussion with a spirit of utmost co-operation.

We are very pleased to note the efforts of states as well as of the United Nations to improve the condition of women in the world. But let us be realistic, we all know perfectly well that a great deal remains to be done. Yes, there are a few women attending this Committee but how many of us are also involved either here in the United Nations or in our own countries in the decision making process? How many of us are really participating in the process of development? Surely the female half of humanity should be given appropriate recognition.

That recognition is one of the major elements which the draft Convention we have before us is attempting to achieve. Let us not, however, be deceived by international instruments, they will not in themselves change the rights of women. States must act to grant to women rights and opportunities on an equal footing with men, so as to avoid perpetuating mistakes of the past. In other words, while this Convention will give impetus to change, it is not in itself essential. States can and should act now; they need not wait for its coming into force in order to correct some of the fundamental imbalances which exist in the world with respect to women.

My delegation, therefore, endorses the Convention in principle. We would have preferred, of course, to see a Convention whose basic objective would have been to promote equality between the sexes rather than to accord special benefits to women. But we think this text can serve a useful purpose at this time and will support it. On the other hand, there are certain comments on the draft text of the Convention which we would like to make now. We are concerned that some of the impact of the Convention could be lost because of poor drafting resulting in overlapping and occasional repetition among articles. For this reason we are anxious to see the special working group on the Convention constituted at the earliest possible date. We hope that this group, while avoiding discussion on the substance of the Convention, will be able to improve the text from a legal as well as a drafting perspective. Some articles in the Convention are so ambiguous in their present form that they can hardly be acceptable to anyone. I refer to Article 16 as an example; it suggests that states and international agencies may decide that their legislation or conventions are more favourable to women, and in these cases Article 16 allows the Convention to be disregarded. This has potentially serious implications, and Canada would wish to see this Article appropriately modified or deleted. Too many laws or conventions which were meant to grant benefits to women have done no more than perpetuate discriminatory practices and lower the status of women. In another instance, subsections of Article 9 provide for special privileges for the alien spouses of nationals which are contrary to the provisions of the new Citizenship Act of Canada. Our legislation does not provide for special privileges for alien spouses, since we consider that this constitutes discrimination on the basis of marital status. We hope therefore that the Article can be modified so as to make it persuasive rather than compulsory.

A final comment on the Convention is that my delegation would like to see more emphasis on proscribing discrimination on the grounds of marital status. There exist numerous forms of differentiation and discrimination on the basis of civil status rather than of sex, which nonetheless affect women adversely more often than men. An example of this is in the extending of credit, an area where married women face considerably greater barriers than do single women. We think that removing this form of discrimination of sufficient importance to warrant specific mention in the preambular paragraphs of the Convention.

Moving away from the Convention, I would like to mention a few recent Canadian initiatives relating to the status of women which are consistent with the spirit of the draft Convention and which may be of interest to other states. In the field of legislation the federal government has recently passed the Canadian Human Rights Act which prohibits discrimination on the grounds, inter alia, of sex and marital status, and provides as well for equal pay for work of equal value. The Human Rights Commission which is charged with enforcing this legislation by hearing personal complaints, is currently studying how the principle of equal pay for work of equal value can best be translated into practice. Since Canada is one of the few jurisdictions to adopt legislation with this wording our experience in implementing it may be of some interest to others.

In the administrative field, Canada has in recent years strengthened and refined the machinery at the federal level which deals with status of women questions. At a time when most of the recommendations of our Royal Commission of enquiry on the Status of Women have been implemented, we are now giving serious consideration to the development of a new blueprint for national action in this field. As well, 1977 has brought about major changes in our Citizenship legislation in that men and women are now treated equally both with respect to the acquisition of citizenship as well as with respect to the transmittal of citizenship to their children.

I would like to close with a few remarks on the role of the United Nations and its agencies in promoting equality between the sexes. Much has been said and written on this subject, so I will confine myself to underscoring once again the responsibilities of all agencies in this regard. It is too easy for international agencies to succumb to the pitfall of considering the responsibility for improving the status of women to lie elsewhere, in organizations or commissions which specialize in women's issues. But agencies and funds with special responsibility for women should not in fact bear exclusive responsibility for them. All international organizations must recognize this, and must work actively to integrate status of women concerns in their daily activities, if they are to pull their weight in this regard. If we work in a concerted manner at the national as well as the international level surely we can look forward to an improvement in the position of women in the world.

5. International Year for the Disabled

Canada has for many years been particularly interested in increasing public awareness and understanding of the disabled and the problems they face. In 1980, Canada will host the Rehabilitation International Conference in Winnipeg and as pointed out in several speeches in the Third Committee, this Conference could be complementary to the UN activities planned for the 1981 International Year for the Disabled.

The following statement was delivered by Mr. Walter C. Dinsdale, P.C., M.P. Wednesday, December 12, 1977 in the Third Committee.

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We have before us a resolution setting up an expert advisory committee which will undertake the preparation for 1981, the year of the disabled. We welcome the work of the United Nations in this field and encourage it to continue the activities it has initiated. My country attaches a great deal of importance to the year of the disabled and as a co-sponsor of this resolution setting up the Advisory body, we would urge the committee to give this proposal unanimous support. For our part, we would like to see the

Committee's primary task as one of promoting greater public awareness of the disabled and the conditions with which they must cope. For too long the disabled have been considered a problem which the international community has refused to acknowledge -- like the proverbial skeleton in the closet they have been considered a problem which time would hopefully solve. Certainly, the advances in the fields of prosthetic and orthotic devices in particular have done much to allow the disabled to integrate themselves into the community, however, much work remains to be done and we would encourage the committee to place special emphasis on the areas of the removal of architectural barriers, the improvement of transportation facilities and technical aids, and the advancement of employment opportunities. Further, we would hope the committee would make full use and maintain close liaison with the various international non-governmental organizations, such as Rehabilitation International, which are dedicated to helping improve the lot of the disabled. Moreover, we would like to see the committee work closely with individual governments, just as we would encourage governments to work closely with the committee and to take appropriate action on the national and regional levels. At the same time, we would urge the committee to take note of the excellent work which the United Nations and, in particular, the centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has already accomplished in this area and to encourage their continued efforts. I would like to mention that the Provincial Governments in Canada have shown much initiative and in cooperation with the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations have made great strides in improving conditions for the disabled. In June of 1980, for example, Rehabilitation International, in conjunction with federal and provincial authorities, is holding the 14th World Congress on Rehabilitation in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The primary objectives of this conference will be to bring together leading representatives of the disciplines in the rehabilitation field with a view to reviewing critically all components of the rehabilitation process. It is our hope to create a stimulating climate of challenge and exchange in which participants to the 1980 World Congress can share and benefit from the latest developments throughout the world in rehabilitation science. On behalf of the government of Canada, may I extend a cordial invitation through you, fellow delegates, to the experts in your countries to participate in this conference.

In closing, I would like to quote the words of Jean Vanier, an international figure who individually has done much on behalf of the disabled. He has said: "The tragedy of man is his hardness of heart, which makes individuals and nations endowed with the riches of this world despise and consider as inferior those who are poor and handicapped".

Fellow delegates, the disabled have an important part to play in the development of the world, and in helping it to find its equilibrium. The challenge is up to us to provide the setting for them to make this contribution.

6. Report of the UNHCR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, created by the General Assembly in 1950, has the task of alleviating the immediate hardships suffered by refugees while seeking long-term solutions to their problems. The High Commissioner reports annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner is periodically renewed by the Assembly. Canada has traditionally accorded strong support to the High Commissioner's work. Canada's 1978 contribution to the regular programme of the High Commissioner has been increased to \$1 million. In a statement delivered on November 15, 1977, Ambassador W.H. Barton expressed the views of the Canadian Government, together with its appreciation of the High Commissioner, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who had earlier submitted his resignation as High Commissioner to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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My delegation first would like to express its appreciation to the High Commissioner for the clear and comprehensive report he has provided to us on the activities of his Office since this Committee last considered the subject.

For a multitude of reasons in the past year our world has continued to be convulsed by a series of social or political events too often accompanied by armed conflict. As a result the problem of refugees and displaced persons has increased and, if we are to be honest with ourselves, there is no hope that this tragic problem will stabilize let alone diminish in the foreseeable future. The reports and statistics of the High Commissioner furnish ample evidence of the gravity of this problem and the escalating costs of protection of, relief and assistance to, millions of unfortunates throughout the world.

One could cite cold facts and equally cold figures but we should never forget the real human beings who appeal, primarily through the Office of the High Commissioner, for our sympathy and our help. While their appeal strikes a chord of sympathy in the hearts of those who choose to listen, the tragedy is that too few in the international community both listen and respond to meet the needs of existing refugees and displaced persons let alone make provision for those who unfortunately will be added to their numbers in the months to come.

Since a relatively small number of governments bear a disproportionate part of the financial burden we see no solution to the chronic short-fall financial situation until there is a broadening of the base of support throughout the entire international community. We are aware that the High Commissioner and his able staff have intensified their efforts in this regard

but more governments must accept that, regardless of the political reasons for refugees and displaced persons, these unfortunates require immediate humanitarian assistance. To refuse to admit that this tragic situation persists, to state that "it is not our concern", or to score political debating points at the expense of persons who are adversely affected by turbulence over which they have no control, are cruel and inhumane attitudes. Surely the problem requires urgent and parallel efforts on the part of all members of the United Nations family -- an effort to provide assistance to the unfortunates, and an effort by governments realistically to identify and eliminate the causes of the human dislocation and suffering.

In an effort to assist the UNHCR, the Canadian Government has taken several important steps since the last UN General Assembly. First, the new Immigration Act passed by the Canadian Parliament on July 25, 1977 reflects the spirit and the letter of the international refugee and humanitarian conventions to which Canada is a party, and reflects the practical experience we have gained in resettling over 350,000 refugees and displaced persons since 1945. The refugee provisions of the new Canadian Immigration Act are intended to give practical expression to Canada's commitment to the principles underlying the U.N. refugee convention. Under this legislation, the U.N. refugee definition will be utilized in the selection of refugees abroad and their identification and protection in Canada. At the same time, we have built into this legislation provisions that will enable Canada to respond to other types of humanitarian situations both in Canada and abroad.

Secondly, with regard to specific refugee resettlement during 1976-77, Canada last year admitted 1,014 convention refugees from various regions of the world and, in the first 7 months of 1977, 617 such refugees found a new home in Canada.

During this same period of time, two special movements have also been in effect: one from Latin America and the other from Southeast Asia. By July 1977, a total of 5,305 Latin American refugees had arrived in Canada and our official policy is to allow this Latin American movement to increase in total from 6,000 to 7,000. Between January and August 1977 Canada admitted 196 Indo-Chinese refugees, mainly those known as the small boat people. This brought the total number of "small boat refugees" admitted thus far to 492 and the total number of Indo-Chinese refugees accepted since 1975 to 6,796. In August, it was decided that an additional 450 Indo-Chinese refugees would be accepted.

The cost of resettling the refugees brought in under the Latin American and Indo-Chinese special movements has been high. Excluding operational costs, Canada has spent \$2,710,000 on the resettlement of Latin American refugees and \$4,696,000 on the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees since the inception of these two special movements. These costs, while borne by the relevant Canadian departments and agencies involved in the resettlement of refugees, are viewed by us as a form of indirect contribution to the ongoing and valuable work of the UNHCR.

My third point and this is crucial for the future of the UNHCR, concerns the financing of the regular programme as well as the special appeals. From the proceedings of the October Executive Committee meeting in Geneva and from the High Commissioner's own report, we all know that the projected costs for the UNHCR's 1978 general programme will increase dramatically in comparison with 1977. Quite frankly, the picture is unsettling. Unsettling for two reasons: first, it reflects the state of our sadly disturbed world in terms of the tragic numbers of refugees and displaced persons involved, and secondly, because it means that, if the funds are not forthcoming from the international community, the High Commissioner could be faced with the unenviable task of having to readapt the goals of his proposed programme and I do not have to spell out who will suffer first if that should be allowed to happen.

Given Canada's record to date in terms of support for all facets of the work of the UNHCR, the High Commissioner can be sure both of Canada's understanding and positive approach. While my Government will continue to do its utmost to assist the High Commissioner, I must repeat our earnest hope that more governments in the international community will see fit to share the burden of aiding our fellow human beings in distress throughout the world.

In closing I would like to say that it was with surprise and great regret that we learned this week of the resignation of His Excellency Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. His contribution to the world community through the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has been enormous. It was truly a difficult and heavy task, which he filled so capably for so many years. He will be sorely missed.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY

1. Scale of Assessments

The scale of assessments is an important item on the agenda of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). The scale itself is recommended by the Committee on Contributions, but it must finally be adopted by vote. All the Member States participate in the vote, which takes place first in the Fifth Committee and afterwards in Plenary. The scale assigns each Member State a proportion of the UN's expenses according to a complex formula which takes account of a number of criteria, the main one being the ability to pay, measured by national revenue. Although it has been the subject of careful study and numerous debates in the past, the scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions has always been accepted so as to best serve the interests of the United Nations.

In the last few years, economic instability and international monetary disturbances have increased the complexity of the task of establishing a scale, which is already made difficult by the thorny problem of availability of and difficulty in comparing national statistics. The countries whose national revenues have increased substantially, particularly those receiving income from the export of oil, made requests with a view to minimizing the increase in their contributions. To satisfy such requests in part, the reference period for the establishment of the scale of assessments was changed to seven years. Thus, eighty-five States saw their contributions decrease, the minimum contribution also being lowered from .02 to .01 per cent of the UN's budget. Canada's contribution, however, went from 2.96 per cent to 3.04 per cent, and it is now the ninth largest contributor. The scale of assessments for the 1978-79 two-year period was adopted by a vote of 90 in favour, 2 against and 12 abstentions.

Canada supported the report of the Committee on Contributions, judging that its members had successfully completed a difficult task, considering the opinions expressed at the Fifth Committee's thirty-first session. Mr. Claude-Andre Lachance, M.P., Canadian Delegate to the Fifth Committee, gave the Canadian position in these terms in a statement made on October 24, 1976.

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The General Assembly last year set the Committee on Contributions an exceptionally difficult task. In this respect the scale of assessment which the Committee on Contributions developed earlier this year and recommended for the years 1978-79 is indeed a noteworthy accomplishment. The report of the Committee is thorough, lucid and comprehensive. It contains a wealth of information and careful analysis which contribute to a realistic appreciation

on the path followed by the Committee in discharging its mandate. The report once again demonstrates the importance of the work of the Committee as well as the competence and expertise shown by its members enlightened by the guidance of its distinguished Chairman, Ambassador Ali.

The U.N. scale derives importance, among several reasons, from the fact that it serves not only the United Nations but many other organizations as a basis for apportioning expenses. Members of the Fifth Committee know that the majority of specialized agencies use the U.N. scale. What is perhaps less common knowledge is that the same scale has found its way into many other inter-governmental organizations. Even if their membership differs from that of the United Nations, these organizations find that the scale provides proportionate assessments which can be used to apportion expenses. It would be interesting to know the organizations which utilize the U.N. scale and what the aggregate resources thus apportioned add up to.

The conceptual, methodological and statistical issues dealt with in composing the scale are analyzed in the current report and in previous reports of the Committee on Contributions. Efforts to introduce new statistical indicators which qualitatively or quantitatively improve the measurement of capacity to pay of each country have to this date not yielded positive results. Partial introduction of new indicators for countries which have them available does not appear desirable. My delegation therefore endorses the conclusion of the Committee on Contributions that regrettably it is not yet possible to improve on national income as the measure of national wealth. We have taken note of the efforts being conducted to find such a way, as outlined in the report and we would welcome initiation of a process which would eventually lead us to systematic and universal national wealth statistics.

The Committee on Contributions points out that changes in export - import prices are intrinsic determinants of national income. They are therefore taken into account automatically whenever national income statistics are compiled. Selective adjustment of some assessments to changes in prices would amount to a duplicate application of the same factor which can be expected to introduce an element of inequity. For this reason, price variations should not enter as an independent factor in setting individual assessments. In the final analysis there may be special circumstances that in the judgement of the Committee on Contributions justify an exception. My delegation would however expect an explanation from the Committee if it used prices to adjust assessments. My delegation further is not persuaded that exports of non-renewable natural resources should necessarily become a mitigating factor. We must not forget that national income over the long term is also determined by consumption at home of non-renewable resources.

It is not surprising that the Committee on Contributions was unable to find methods for adjusting national incomes to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. The Committee may wish to provide the General Assembly at one of its future sessions with a detailed review of the obstacles encountered in developing constant price statistics, and the prospects for overcoming such obstacles in the years to come. A better understanding of the constant price issue will no doubt contribute to the general acceptability of the recommended scale.

My delegation notes the continued lack of comparability of international statistics. Progress in improving quality and coverage of national income estimates is indeed welcome and the large majority of member states provide data that are compatible conceptually and in content, thus ensuring a greater measure of fairness in apportioning expenses. Some countries may have reservations about the system of national accounts (SNA) statistics, but nevertheless they provide their data under this system. The Material Products System (MPS) statistics, on the other hand, which are used by centrally planned economies gives a proportionately lower national income. Use of MPS statistics for determining assessments introduces an element of inequity since MPS assessments are proportionately lower. The Committee on Contributions notes improvements in compatibility between SNA and MPS statistics. We shall encourage all efforts of the Committee to aim at full compatibility between both systems. It may be useful to receive information at some future time on developments in this area.

Another issue which may have to be faced in future is the conversion of national currencies into a composite monetary unit so as to meet the difficulties of fluctuating exchange rates. In this context the Committee on Contributions mentions specific but unlisted features of the currencies of centrally planned economies that may require further elucidation so that member states are aware of their significance for assessments. My delegation would encourage the Committee to expedite its studies in this area since present methodology apparently leaves something to be desired.

In the section of the report on mitigating factors, important principles are dealt with which last year were shown to give rise to differences among member states. These differences should be seen in the light of the overriding objective of the scale to ensure financial integrity and viability of this Organization. The careful and thorough study of the Committee shows that there are limits to which mitigation can be carried if the capacity to pay principle is to have the desired overriding importance. It has been impossible to devise a workable, universally and directly applicable system of mitigating excessive assessment increments or decrements in percentage or absolute terms, in part because such measures would constitute an essential departure from the capacity to pay principle. Extending the base period to reduce the effects of short-term fluctuations has been applied since 1953. This method has its shortcomings as demonstrated by the Committee and recognized by member states. The lack of unanimity in the Committee on accepting the seven-year base period underlines the difficulties. My delegation is not convinced that shielding assessments from larger variations in the capacity to pay is desirable. The major advantages which a long base period confers upon some assessments are counter-balanced by inadequate reductions in others. The Committee has used the seven-year base period for the current review of the scale. My delegation notes that this procedure is not considered a precedent for the future scales. However since the Committee has decided to adopt a seven-year base for the 1978-79 scale, it will be very difficult to revert to a three-year base in subsequent scales without again resulting in large upward adjustments. For reasons of consistency there are arguments in favour of retaining the same statistical base from one scale to the next.

Turning to the new scale recommended by the Committee, my delegation accepts the judgement in favour of a two-year assessment. We also accept a further study of the formula for low per capita income allowances. However, any change in this formula should be such as to strengthen the role of capacity to pay as the ultimate criterion for determining the scale. This means that a mechanism should be proposed which can in time reduce the relative importance of special allowances in the scale in order to avoid arbitrary mitigation and thereby enhance the general acceptability of the scale.

The Committee mentions steps it took to safeguard its status as a subsidiary body solely responsible to the General Assembly. This is an important issue and my delegation agrees that these and further steps are appropriate to avoid creating new situations. The procedure for introducing statistical and other information to the Committee for its deliberations should be identical for all member states.

My delegation has studied with interest the separate opinions expressed in the report of the Committee on Contributions. It is indeed a serious matter that the Committee was unable to reach a consensus. The situation illustrates the need for strictest adherence to Assembly directives, in particular adherence to the fundamental criterion of capacity to pay. The debate in the Fifth Committee last year and the report before us now demonstrate that departures from set criteria, far from making the scale more acceptable, are likely to undermine it. While my delegation is prepared to support the recommended scale for 1978-79, there is an urgent need for the Committee on Contributions to eschew in future assessments which do not conform to approved criteria. We urge that all delegations accept the proposed scale in the best interest of the Organization. Continued questioning of the scale on grounds of perceived short-term national interest can only cause other states to follow the same practice, thereby weakening the institutional viability of the Organization.

2. Committee on Conference

Conferences are a major activity of the United Nations and take a large proportion of its budget. In 1974, following a Canadian suggestion, the General Assembly formed, as an experiment for a period of three years, a committee made up of twenty-two Member States specially charged to report to the General Assembly the annual calendar of conferences, recommendations as to the best utilization of resources, and the appropriate means for improving the co-ordination of conferences. However, the most important part of its terms of reference was to decide between sessions, on behalf of the General Assembly, what response should be made to requests to deviate from the calendar of conferences.

This year, the Committee on Conferences presented its report and its mandate ended. Canada co-sponsored a resolution, later adopted, to establish the Committee on Conferences on a permanent basis. Mr. Claude-Andre Lachance, M.P., delegate on the Fifth Committee, made a statement in the Fifth Committee on November 2, 1977 noting the Committee's positive record and giving Canada's views on the calendar of conferences and the alternations which were made to it, the utilization and allocation of conference services and the monitoring of the application of criteria for drawing up reports of meetings.

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My delegation has studied with interest the third report of the Committee on Conferences (A/32/32) containing the results of the Committee's work during the final year in the experimental period of its mandate as well as the excellent statement of the distinguished Chairman of the Committee at our second meeting last Tuesday.

To begin, let me state, my delegation shares the view of the Chairman that the Committee on Conferences has justified its existence. On balance, its performance has improved since its inception, as both its members and its Secretariat gained experience in dealing with the large and complex programme of conferences and meetings by means of an intergovernmental mechanism. The achievements of the Committee to improving the Conference Programme have not yet reached a level that can be described as fully satisfactory. However, thanks to the hard work of the Secretariat and the patient, competent and dedicated guidance of its former Chairman, Mr. Thomas, as well as of his successor, Mr. Okeyo, solid achievement can be reported. There are also reasonable prospects for further improvement, particularly in making the Conference Programme more efficient and responsive to the needs of member states. In view of the positive expectations my delegation is prepared to consider favourably continuing the life of the Committee. A review of its mandate by the General Assembly is also considered desirable. My delegation is prepared to support the draft resolution attached to the Committee's report in Annex II. I now wish to turn to several other topics dealt with in the report of the Committee.

Intersessional Departures

From the very beginning the Committee's activity in considering and approving intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences has been a significant task, resulting in several important decisions. Member states have found the Committee a suitable instrument to reach certain political decisions which it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to reach in its absence. For example, this year the consideration of the arrangements for the UN Conference on the Establishment of UNIDO as a specialized agency was both timely and fruitful. The financial implications of intersessional

departures approved by the Committee are significant. Fortunately, by the time the report was approved no additional appropriations were required. Financial data are shown in Appendix VI of the Committee's report, on pages 125 and 126. The analysis and determination of the financial implications of a departure have been a source of some difficulty and confusion. To permit assessment of the financial impact, the Secretariat will have to provide in future a standard breakdown of costs involved in Committee decisions. The elements of the cost can then be considered with greater care. The question of savings due to cancelled or postponed meetings has not yet been studied. Experience for different users such as ACABQ is not necessarily suitable for the purposes of the Committee on Conferences. Moreover it is important to scrutinize not only conference servicing costs or savings, but also all other costs as well as savings resulting from a departure. The costing issues should be further studied with a view to finding a procedure that yields fully acceptable results.

Calendar of Conferences

The consideration of the Calendar of Conferences for 1978-79 has raised once again the question of the venue of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee. In this context the financial information provided, however accurate, was such that in the view of my delegation, conclusions derived therefrom are misleading. The differences of view between the Committee on Conferences and the Outer Space Committee were perhaps in part due to the kind of financial information provided as a basis for decision making. The experience illustrates the ability of the Committee to shed light on complex conference issues. It is a major reason why my delegation would welcome a General Assembly provision along lines similar to those taken by ECOSOC this summer which ensures that advice by the Committee on Conferences is brought to bear upon decisions that involve changes in the pattern of conferences as approved by the General Assembly. Decisions taken from the vantage point of specialized subsidiary bodies have too frequently been found to be at odds with broader interests of member states, a situation which is not much in evidence in ECOSOC. The Conference Programme has now expanded to the point where a little more order would be appreciated by the membership and above all by the countries with limited participation capacity. In the rare cases where recommendations of the Committee on Conferences differ from those taken by other bodies, my delegation believes that approved principles, including the principle that bodies should meet at their established headquarters, should prevail unless and until a careful study justifies a change.

Utilization and Apportionment of Conference Services

Under this heading, my delegation wishes to welcome the guidelines for reducing the number of cancellations and the experimental introduction of over-programming to limit the under-utilization of resources due to cancellations. The guidelines clearly establish responsibilities for keeping committees informed of matters relevant to the efficient and effective conduct of meetings and conferences. Authority to over-programme is another important proposal of the Committee particularly during 1978-79, when a part of the conference facilities in New York will not be available due to the reconstruction programme scheduled to commence next year. During this period experience can demonstrate the usefulness of the new practice.

Monitoring of the Application of the Criteria for the Provision of Meetings Records

The criteria developed by the Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly two years ago have had a significant impact, though not as far-reaching as hoped for. Efforts rationalizing documentation services should be pursued vigorously to include the production and distribution of all documents from their inception by substantive departments to delivery to their users. The difficulties which member states experience with documentation are enormous and manifold. Monitoring, careful supervision, modern word processing techniques will, over a period of time, help to provide better documentation services to member states as they have helped others to cope with information. If the life of the Committee on Conferences is extended, its mandate should include documentation. I would hope that one of the Committee's first steps next year would be to establish a simple monitoring procedure for timely reporting to avoid encountering a situation as determined by the Committee on Conferences when it was requested to postpone the CPC meetings. To illustrate the problem it may be useful to know that the Budget Division received the first submissions for the 1978-79 Programme Budget from substantive departments more than three months later than requested. Submissions continued to arrive almost until CPC commenced its meetings late in May. As a result the report of CPC was published too late to be taken properly into account by ACABQ in its work on the Budget. Nor did ECOSOC have sufficient time to study it, as it was not published until after the beginning of the ECOSOC summer session. This is no doubt the major reason why the CPC report, instead of helping our present work on the Programme Budget, is a source of needless confusion due to apparent over-lapping and unreconciled recommendations. The unhappy situation illustrated by the production of the Programme Budget repeats itself in almost every part of the United Nations. The situation should not be allowed to continue.

F. LEGAL QUESTIONS

1. Report of the Special Committee on The Charter Review and On The Strengthening of the Role of the United Nations

The U.N. Charter, which was written in 1945, has proved to be a flexible instrument and has been altered only slightly over the years. Where amendments have been made, they have been technical in nature. Changes included an increase in the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in response to the greatly increased membership of the U.N. itself.

In 1975, the General Assembly set up the Special Committee on the Charter Review and on the Strengthening of the Role of the U.N. At its first two sessions, in 1976 and 1977, the Special Committee studied an analytical report on this topic prepared by the Secretary-General, as well as observations and proposals submitted by States.

On October 26, 1977, Professor R. St. J. Macdonald, Canadian Representative to the Sixth Committee, delivered the following statement.

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There have been fundamental changes in the international community since the United Nations Charter was drafted more than thirty years ago, and membership in the Organization has almost tripled. The Government of Canada wishes to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for international cooperation and to improve the capacity of the Organization to meet its responsibilities.

There are, we believe, several ways to improve the effectiveness of the Organizations. The first is to make better use of the machinery we now have. There are articles in the Charter which lie virtually dormant and which might be brought back to life. For example, the Security Council might meet more often at the political level, as prescribed in Article 28 (2).

The second way of improving the effectiveness of the Organization is to improve its machinery. A number of innovative proposals have emerged from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. For the most part, the changes envisaged are intended to give fuller effect to existing provisions of the Charter, to strengthen the relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, and to improve coordination of operational activities at the intergovernmental, secretariat and country levels. Some of the proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee would require changes in the Charter. In particular, the Committee may recommend that consideration be given to expanding the membership of ECOSOC to compensate for the loss of representation on any disbanded subsidiary bodies, and to take into account the increase in membership since 1973.

The third way of improving the capacity and performance of the Organization is through supplementary or subordinate international agreements which, while leaving the text and contents unchanged, define in greater detail the general provisions of the Charter. There are numerous instances of such subordinate consistent agreements; for example, as early as 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations spelled out in thirty-six sections the provisions of Articles 104 and 105 of the Charter.

A fourth way in which the Charter responds to the conflicting demands of progress and stability is through the processes of practice, evolution and interpretation. The United Nations has been actively involved in all major areas of concern to the members, including the process of decolonization and self-determination, the need to promote international development, and questions relating to the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid. It has effectively promoted international cooperation in specific areas not reflected in the Charter, such as the protection of the environment, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the development of an international legal regime for the oceans. The absence of any reference to peacekeeping in the Charter has not prevented the United Nations from making important and lasting contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security. Indeed, Canada's extensive experience in the field of peacekeeping has convinced my Government that concrete and pragmatic steps can be taken to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond to the needs and challenges of the international community without, in this case, the need for formal amendment.

In our view, there is an impressive range of techniques and modalities through which the purposes, principles and procedures of the United Nations can be more fully achieved. I would just mention a few possibilities, such as the elaboration of principles, the adoption of resolutions and declarations, the drafting of subsidiary agreements, the development of the organization's customary constitutional law, and the creation of specialized bodies for specific purposes, all of which underline the United Nations' extraordinary capacity for dynamic growth and adaptation to changing needs and conditions in the international community. If the United Nations has fallen short of its potential, the problem has not been juridical, but has reflected basic differences between states on how to give effect to their obligations and responsibilities under the Charter.

Charter reform is another way of improving the effectiveness of the United Nations. In this respect, I may say that Canada is prepared to give careful consideration to all specific proposals for revision of the Charter which command broad support among the members of the Organization and which do not endanger the basic framework of the United Nations. Parts of the Charter are outmoded. They no longer correspond to reality. Other parts have served very well the test of time.

In turning now to the report of the Special Committee, I would first of all express our appreciation to the distinguished Professor Broms for his contribution to the work of the Committee and for his introductory statement. My delegation is of the view that the method of work followed by the Committee - a detailed and methodical consideration of the Secretary-General's analytical study -- has provided a variety of new perspectives and ideas for

improving the structure and enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization. We have noted that the Special Committee was able to complete, at its last session, its first reading of the study. It is now in a position to begin a new phase of its work. In the Canadian view, it is essential that the Committee begin to identify those proposals which can command broad support among member states and upon which a consensus can be built.

We believe that among the important areas which the Committee could usefully consider are the subsidiary rules that have developed around the principles of the Charter on fact finding and on the peaceful settlement of international disputes. These could be further articulated and elaborated.

Of course, it will be important that the Committee avoid rigid and extreme positions that ignore fundamental interests of some members. We must not undermine the Organization in the very process of trying to strengthen it. In this connection, Canada regrets that it was not possible to complete the work of this year's session of the Special Committee by consensus. The task which has been entrusted to the Committee is sensitive and complex; it required a gradual and deliberate approach coupled with a spirit of goodwill and compromise.

2. Re-examination of the Process for Drawing Up Multilateral Treaties

Following a request by Australia, the General Assembly this year included on its agenda a new item calling for a thorough study of the methods of drawing up multilateral treaties. On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, it adopted by consensus a resolution asking the Secretary-General to draw up a report on the question, and the governments and the International Law Commission to give their comments. The question was included on the agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

On November 17, 1977, Mr. Erik Wang, Director of the Legal Operations Division of the Department of External Affairs, made the following statement on this question.

* * * *

Canada welcomed the initiative of Australia and other co-sponsors that has resulted in the inscription of this item on "Review of the Multilateral Treaty-making Process". We support the view that it is timely for the United Nations to examine the process by which the international community makes multilateral treaties and we have been pleased to add the name of Canada to the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution before us. We hope that member states participating in the work of this Committee will recognize the concerns that face all governments which are actively involved in the range of complex issues under consideration for purposes of treaty-making, and will agree on the merits of the proposal.

In our examination of methods of multilateral treaty-making we have been very conscious of the importance of multilateral treaties in the conduct of current international relations and the importance of the codification and the progressive development of international law. An improvement in the techniques and the methods that are employed in codification could increase the likelihood that multilateral treaties will receive broadly based support, which in turn will enhance the contribution that international law makes to the orderly conduct of affairs of the international community.

In supporting the proposal for a review of the process by which the international community makes multilateral treaties, we consider that we must take into account all stages of that process and the extent to which inadequate preparation at any stage may result in failure at the final stage, that is broadly-based adherence to the treaty. In the development of a treaty on any given subject, a number of factors must be taken into account. These factors include the existence of domestic legislation of states, decisions of national tribunals, international judicial decisions and existing bilateral or multilateral treaties related to the subject. To ignore these factors is to risk that the result of the treaty-making process will not be acceptable to a majority of states. If the factors taken into account during the initial stages represent an accurate reflection of the international community's policies and jurisprudence on a selected subject, the final text submitted to states will be well rooted in international experience and will constitute the kind of codification that can be described as a genuinely progressive development of international law.

This is not to say that the preparation of multilateral treaties can or should be limited to those areas of practice which already constitute, through their acceptance, international custom. It is also necessary to consider aspects of selected subjects for which there is no established precedent, and for which international experience does not point directly to principles of international law. These gaps in international law need to be included in the preparation of multilateral treaties if they are to cover the subject matter in a comprehensive fashion and have relevance to the world in which we live. This aspect of multilateral treaty-making is also part of the progressive development of international law and should not be rejected as being less than wholly legal in character. In our perception, an emerging multilateral treaty should take into account both existing policy and jurisprudence and the requirements of economic and political relations between states, if the treaty is to win the acceptance of states.

Turning to the scope of the review, we agree that it should in the first instance concentrate on the methods of multilateral treaty-making employed in the United Nations and under United Nations auspices. We also think that if the review is to meet requirements for an improvement in the process it will be necessary that the practices of specialized agencies and other institutions, both within and without the United Nations' family, be fully taken into account. In treaty-making, the role of the International Law Commission is predominant. In addition, there is valuable experience in the established practices of specialized agencies such as, for example, the International Labour Organization and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization which provide standards against which other activities of this kind may be measured.

It should not be forgotten that many of the concerns of our governments are in a broader range of evolving economic and political issues which confront the international community and which are already subject to the process of progressive development and codification. It is our view that any review of the multilateral treaty-making process should take into account the character and consequences of multilateral treaty-making in areas such as international trade, foreign investment, the exploitation of natural resources, energy, restrictive business practices, transportation and shipping, the environment - the list of issues is lengthy. The Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea is a law-making effort of major dimensions, embracing an unprecedented range of issues of great complexity and importance to the international community. The Law of the Sea has been a major preoccupation of international lawyers over many years and the Conference has already had a major and constructive impact on international law and state practice. The methods and techniques which have evolved in this domain clearly have lessons for any review of the multilateral treaty-making process. In this regard, the distinguished Representative of Singapore has posed a number of very pertinent questions which I hope can be addressed by the Secretary-General in his study.

The process by which the international community makes multilateral treaties could, in our view, be significantly affected by the review being undertaken and attempts to reach agreement on international practice. We hope, therefore, that the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the proposed report on the techniques and procedures used in the elaboration of multilateral treaties, would cast his net widely and take into account the full range of treaty-making underway be it in the United Nations, in the specialized agencies, in the international Law Commission or in other international institutions. We would welcome assessments by the Secretary-General on the adequacy and effectiveness of particular methods, and would welcome suggestions for improvement which could subsequently be studied by member states. Equally, we hope that all governments and all of the institutions involved will have an opportunity to provide their views on the techniques and procedures which would assist in the process. We have noted, for example, the suggestion that in the course of the development of the report, or after study of the report, consideration be given to preparation of a manual or repertoire of recommended practices to assist member states of the United Nations in the selection of the most suitable techniques for multilateral treaty-making. This could be a very useful bi-product of the review and one which, while is modest in concept, can have a long term effect in improving the quality and character of multilateral treaties. It should not of course reduce the flexibility which is inherent in present treaty-making processes, whereby different subject areas can be handled in different ways and in different bodies. The process of consultation on such a manual should not be limited to the United Nations' family or to treaty-making in any particular area, but should embrace other relevant institutions and subjects involved in the process. In our own participation in the review, we would hope to ensure that these aspects of treaty-making are taken into account.

The multilateral treaty has been of immense benefit to the international community in terms of the progressive development and codification of international law and, of equal importance, in providing a means of reconciling opposing views and establishing the kind of international cooperation which permits the day-to-day affairs of states to proceed. A better understanding of the methods and process of multilateral treaty-making is necessary if we are to have the maximum benefits of this process. Canada fully supports a comprehensive review of the multilateral treaty-making process which would help to ensure that the codification of international practice in all areas continues to contribute both to the development of international law and to the strengthening of inter-state relations.

3. Security of International Civil Aviation

Among the highlights of the thirty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly was the inclusion on its agenda of the question of the security of international civil aviation, following a request by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA). The General Assembly referred the question to the Special Political Committee. After numerous consultations, the latter adopted by consensus a resolution which, in particular, reiterated the General Assembly's condemnation of any act of air piracy, asked the States to take the necessary measures to prevent such acts and to ratify the existing conventions, and requested the ICAO to urgently make a more sustained effort to ensure the safety of air routes.

On November 2, 1977, Miss Coline Campbell, M.P., Canadian representative to the Special Political Committee, made the following statement on this subject.

* * * *

Canada joined with other member States in urging the inscription of the item entitled "The Safety of International Civil Aviation" as an important and urgent matter requiring immediate consideration by the General Assembly. We share the deep concern of the international community and of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) about the recent escalation of brutal attacks against civil aviation. Events in the past two weeks have tragically highlighted the need for prompt international action to prevent and combat such acts. Canada wishes to take this opportunity to express its sadness and shock at the two recent hijackings which have both led to the death of innocent human beings during that period. Canada wishes to express its sympathy to the German and Vietnamese Governments and its deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

It is clear that the problems of terrorist attacks on civil aviation is an international problem, for which there must be a vigorous and concerted international response. These senseless, desperate acts respect no borders and no citizens are immune from the threat.

In devising further international measures to suppress acts of hijacking and other unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation, it will be important to bear in mind that a framework of valuable international co-operation has already been put in place. It is on this framework that we must build. In this regard, General Assembly Resolution 2645 (XXV) of November 25, 1970, relating to aerial hijacking or interference with civil aviation, explicitly condemns, without exception whatsoever, all acts of aerial hijacking and the exploitation of unlawful seizure of aircraft for the purpose of taking hostages. This approach, whereby acts of aerial hijacking are to be condemned and to be made punishable without exception and regardless of the motive of the perpetrator, has been translated into several important conventions adopted by the United Nations.

I refer in particular to the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation. At the foundation of the legal obligations created by these conventions lies the principles "prosecute or extradite". Article 7 of both conventions obliges the State in whose territory the alleged offender is found to either prosecute him or extradite him to another state having jurisdiction for the purpose of prosecution. The objective of these conventions is to ensure that the offender who commits the crime in one country and seeks refuge in another is not able to escape punishment. Moreover, under Articles 2 and 3 of the Hague and Montreal Conventions, respectively, contracting States undertake to make the offence punishable by severe penalties.

The 1970 Hague and 1971 Montreal Conventions, as well as the 1963 Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, have received wide acceptance in all regions of the world by a broad cross-section of States embracing a variety of political philosophies. We have noted that 88 States have now either acceded to or ratified the Tokyo Convention, 79 States are now parties to the Hague Convention and 75 States have acceded to or ratified the Montreal Convention. These figures indicate an increasing degree of cooperation within the international community in seeking to ensure that offenders will receive severe punishment for their acts and we understand that further States will shortly join the growing list of signatories to these conventions, drawn from all regions of the world. The international community is gradually closing the door on the hijacker; it is becoming for him an increasingly hostile world in which to operate. There are, however, still important gaps in the application of these conventions which can encourage further acts of aerial hijacking. It was for this reason that the Canadian delegation to the 22nd Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), held in Montreal from September 13 to October 5, 1977, recommended to the Legal Commission that the Secretary-General be requested to bring again to the attention of States Resolution A 21-9 regarding expeditious ratification of conventions relating to unlawful interference and that the Council be requested to study ways and means of obtaining widest possible application of those conventions. Canada was gratified that this recommendation was unanimously approved by the Legal Commission and looks forward in the near future to a detailed study of this matter.

Along similar lines, we support the appeal to all States which have not yet become parties to give urgent consideration to ratifying and acceding to the three international conventions to which I have referred. This appeal which is reflected in operative paragraph three of the Resolution A/SPC/32/L.4 which was adopted by consensus in this Committee yesterday has been made by this General Assembly in earlier resolutions and as I have indicated it has not gone unheeded. Canada is looking to those States which have not yet become parties to these conventions for cooperation at all levels: international, regional and bilateral.

We believe that draft resolution L.4 provides a good basis for future action by member States. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirms the condemnation of the General Assembly of acts of aerial hijacking. This condemnation extends to all acts of violence against passengers, crew and aircraft, regardless of motive. Acts of air piracy, like acts of sea piracy, slavery and genocide, regardless of motive or cause are abhorrent to the conscience of mankind.

Operative paragraph 2 calls upon all States to take all necessary steps to prevent the commission of offences. There is a clear need for improved security arrangements at airports, or by airlines, as well as a greater exchange of relevant information between States. Canada reaffirms its commitment to national and international measures to this end. Canada has actively supported the convening, under the auspices of ICAO, of regional aviation security seminars. These seminars help to enhance the effectiveness of States' security procedures and have the added advantage of promoting uniformity in various regions. Canada proposed at the 22nd ICAO Assembly last month that Resolution A-21-23 entitled "Technical Measures for Safeguarding International Civil Air Transport Against Unlawful Interference" be amended to give ICAO more flexibility to call regional aviation security seminars. This amendment was adopted and should now pave the way for increased regional consultations of a technical nature.

Canada is convinced that there is scope for further national and international action. I have mentioned two avenues which must be actively pursued, namely wider acceptance of the Tokyo, Hague and Montreal Conventions and the more frequent convening of regional aviation security seminars. My delegation also attaches importance to the need, reflected in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, for joint and separate action to ensure that passengers, crew and aircraft engaged in civil aviation are not used as a means of extorting advantage of any kind. Canada, together with other like-minded delegations, will, as a matter of the highest priority, seek to explore every possibility for effective action in this regard.

My delegation would have wished the inclusion of more specific language in operative paragraph 4 with respect to the work to be taken up by ICAO as a follow-on to this action by this Assembly. We believe that the language of this resolution does reflect the resolve of member States of the United Nations to undertake urgently further efforts in ICAO to ensure the security of air travel and to close the door on the hijacker in a decisive and effective way. Canada will be consulting actively with other delegations here and in ICAO on various follow-on measures, including the reinforcement of

Annex 17 to the Chicago Convention relating to the physical security of airports, and other measures for joint action by States. As co-sponsor of the original resolution upon which the present resolution was based in substance, Canada is gratified that draft resolution L.4 was adopted by consensus, as a manifestation of international will to combat all acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation and to ensure the security of international air travel.

4. Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages

Among the important matters debated by the Sixth Committee (Legal) at the thirty-second session was the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages. The inclusion of this question was the result of an initiative on the part of the Federal Republic of Germany which culminated, at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, in the adoption by consensus of a resolution creating a Special Committee responsible for drawing up the proposed convention. The Special Committee began its work in August 1977, without however succeeding in developing a draft convention at its first session. At its thirty-second session, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus renewing the Committee's mandate; the Committee will meet in Geneva in February 1978.

On December 5, 1977, Mr. Philippe Kirsch, legal adviser to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, made the following statement concerning the convention.

* * * *

The Government of Canada fully supports international efforts to put an end to the taking of hostages and to conclude, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international convention against such acts. Acts of hostage-taking flagrantly violate the fundamental rights of the individual, including the right to life, liberty and security as proclaimed in article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Just as states have sought to protect the individual and preserve order through systems of criminal justice, so the international community must take similar steps to prevent and punish acts of hostage-taking through international cooperation.

In considering the essential elements of a convention against the taking of hostages, there is considerable international legal precedent. My delegation has reviewed, both in the Sixth Committee and in the Hostage-Taking Committee, those principles of particular relevance to effective international action. One point stands out. International legal precedents, whether relating to armed conflicts or to acts occurring outside the context of armed conflict provide for a complete prohibition against the taking of hostages, regardless of the motive or identity of the perpetrator or the identity of the victim.

This prohibition against the taking of hostages is found in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and in the two Additional Protocols to these Conventions adopted in June 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. Other international legal precedents which stipulate similar prohibitions are: General Assembly Resolution 2645 (XXV) of November 25, 1970 which condemns, without exception whatsoever, all acts of aerial hijacking or other interference with civil air travel, and Resolution A/32/8 of November 12, 1977 which reiterates this condemnation.

In addition, the concept that all such acts should be condemned and made punishable, regardless of the motives of the perpetrators, underlies three international conventions which, in the Canadian view, provide the foundation of the work of the Hostage-Taking Committee. These are the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, and the 1973 New York Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. These three Conventions are based on a principle accepted by many governments in all parts of the world, which provides an option for the state to extradite the alleged offender or to prosecute him in its own courts. In the Canadian view, the convention against the taking of hostages should build upon these precedents without duplicating or disturbing the existing and accepted international legal framework.

It is clear from the report of the Hostage-Taking Committee that the basic questions have been discussed and progress has been achieved in the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages. In this connection, my delegation wishes to acknowledge the substantial contribution made to the work of the Committee by the Federal Republic of Germany through its submission of a draft convention contained in document A/AC.L88/L.3. In the Canadian view, this draft convention provides a firm basis for discussion of all the necessary elements for effective international cooperation against the taking of hostages. My government particularly supports the proposal in this draft for the necessary extension of the jurisdiction of national courts over those offences outside the usual territorial jurisdiction. The concept of universal jurisdiction, along with the provisions for the extradition and prosecution of offenders, obviously seeks to guarantee the offenders will not escape punishment for their acts, wherever they may flee.

If the work of the Hostage-Taking Committee is to proceed with the sense of urgency appropriate to the task entrusted to it, as reflected in Resolution 31/103, it will be important for it to concentrate on specific and concrete proposals. It will also be required to focus on a number of issues which were not resolved at the last session of the Committee.

One such question involves the proposal regarding the application of the convention to national liberation movements which was submitted by certain delegations at the first session of the Committee. Canada supports the principle of self-determination of peoples in accordance with the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. However, Canada does not support the use of

violence as a means of solving conflicts and political disputes. For even more compelling reasons, my government cannot under any circumstances accept that the taking of hostages, an act universally condemned, be considered as a means of achieving any objective, no matter what the justification may be.

Another matter raised by certain delegations during the Committee session involves the possibility of including in the convention a provision regarding states terrorism. As the acts of states are governed by a number of existing international instruments, Canada believes that consideration of this issue by the Hostage-Taking Committee would duplicate work already being carried out in the United Nations and elsewhere. It also feels that study of this question would cause insurmountable difficulties for the Committee and would divert it from the main purpose of the proposed convention, which is to prevent acts of hostage-taking and punish the guilty individuals. This approach to the problem is in accordance with the legal framework established by the 1970 Hague, 1971 Montreal and 1973 New York Conventions, and in our opinion it is indispensable to the success of the Committee's work as defined in Resolution 31/103.

My delegation shares the strong concern of the international community regarding the frequency of acts of hostage-taking and the necessity to devise effective international measures against it. For these reasons, Canada is pleased to co-sponsor Resolution L.10 inviting the Committee to continue its work for another year. The Committee undertook its task of drafting an international convention against the taking of hostages on a sound basis and made some progress during its first session. We hope it will be able to complete its work during the 1978 session and submit a draft convention to the Thirty-fourth General Assembly. We would also urge states to adopt this resolution unanimously as a manifestation of international will to take practical measures against the taking of hostages.

PART II

APPENDICES

A. THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Following two months of discussions in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, the representatives of 50 states, including Canada, signed the Charter of the United Nations on June 26, 1945. The Canadian role during the Conference had been an extremely active one and many Canadian proposals were incorporated in the Charter, which came into effect on October 24, 1945.

The Preamble to the Charter expresses the fundamental aims of the 51 original members and those which have been admitted to the United Nations since October, 1945:

We the peoples of the United Nations determined

- To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

and for these ends

- To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- To employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

B. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. MEMBERSHIP

The General Assembly is composed of all 149 member states of the United Nations, each of which is entitled to have five representatives seated in the Assembly Chamber.

Member States	Date of admission to the UN	Member States	Date of admission to the UN
Afghanistan	19/11/46	*Ecuador	
Albania	14/12/55	Egypt	24/10/45
Algeria	8/10/62	*El Salvador	
Angola	1/12/76	Equitorial Guinea	12/11/68
*Argentina		*Ethiopia	
*Australia			
Austria	14/12/55	Fiji	13/10/70
		Finland	14/12/55
Bahamas	18/9/73	*France	
Bahrain	21/9/71		
Bangladesh	17/9/74	Gabon	20/9/60
Barbados	9/12/66	Gambia	21/9/65
Belgium		German Democratic Republic	18/9/73
Benin	20/9/66	Germany, Federal Republic of	18/9/73
Bhutan	21/9/71	Ghana	8/3/57
*Bolivia		*Greece	
Botswana	17/10/66	Grenada	17/9/74
*Brazil		*Guatemala	
Bulgaria	14/12/55	Guinea	12/12/58
Burma	19/4/48	Guinea-Bissau	17/9/74
Burundi	18/9/72	Guyana	20/9/66
*Byelorussian S.S.R.			
		*Haiti	
*Canada		*Honduras	
Cape Verde	16/9/75	Hungary	14/12/55
Central African Empire+	20/9/60		
Chad	20/9/60	Iceland	19/11/46
*Chile		*India	
*China		Indonesia	28/9/50
*Colombia		*Iran	
Comoros	12/11/75	*Iraq	
Congo	20/9/60	Ireland	14/12/55
*Costa Rica		Israel	11/5/49
*Cuba		Italy	14/12/55
Cyprus	20/9/60	Ivory Coast	20/9/60
*Czechoslovakia			
		Jamaica	18/9/62
Democratic Kampuchea	14/12/55	Japan	18/12/56
Democratic Yemen	14/12/55	Jordan	14/12/55
*Denmark			
Djibouti	20/9/77	Kenya	16/8/63
Dominican Republic		Kuwait	14/4/63

* Original members, e.g. members which participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945 or had previously signed the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, and which signed and ratified the Charter on June 26, 1945.

+ Formerly Central African Republic

Member States	Date of admission to the UN	Member States	Date of admission to the UN
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14/12/55	Spain	14/12/55
*Lebanon		Sri Lanka	14/12/55
Lesotho	17/10/70	Sudan	12/11/56
*Liberia		Surinam	4/12/75
Libyan Arab Republic	14/12/55	Swaziland	24/9/58
*Luxembourg		Sweden	19/11/46
		*Syrian Arab Republic	
Madagascar	20/9/60		
Malawi	1/12/64	Thailand	16/12/46
Malaysia	17/9/57	Togo	20/9/60
Maldives	21/9/65	Trinidad and Tobago	18/9/62
Mali	28/9/60	Tunisia	12/11/56
Malta	1/12/64	*Turkey	
Mauritania	27/10/61		
Mauritius	24/4/68	Uganda	19/10/62
*Mexico		*Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	
		*Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	
Mongolia	27/10/61	United Arab Emirates	9/12/72
Morocco	12/11/56	*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
Mozambique	16/9/75	United Republic of Cameroon	20/9/60
		*United Republic of Tanzania	
Nepal	14/12/55	*United States of America	
*Netherlands		Upper Volta	20/9/60
*New Zealand		*Uruguay	
Nicaragua			
Niger	20/9/60	*Venezuela	
Nigeria	7/10/60	*Viet Nam	20/9/77
*Norway			
		Yemen	30/9/47
Oman	30/9/71	*Yugoslavia	
Pakistan	30/9/60		
*Panama		Zaire	30/9/60
Papua New Guinea	10/10/75	Zambia	1/12/64
*Paraguay			
*Peru			
*Phillippines			
*Poland			
Portugal	14/12/55		
Qatar	21/9/71		
Romania	14/12/55		
Rwanda	18/9/62		
Samoa	15/12/76		
Sao Tome and Principe	16/9/75		
*Saudi Arabia			
Senegal	28/9/60		
Seychelles	21/9/76		
Sierra Leone	27/9/61		
Singapore	21/9/65		
Somalia	20/9/60		
*South Africa			

Observers

Observer status is not provided for in the UN Charter. Over the years, however, the Secretary-General has granted such a status to non-member states which have had some form of association with the UN system, e.g. membership in the Specialized Agencies. Five countries currently maintain observer missions in New York: Switzerland, Monaco, the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Through special resolutions, the General Assembly has also granted observer status to six associations of states: the OAS, the Arab League, the OAU, the EEC, the COMECON and the Islamic Conference. The Palestine Liberation Organization was also granted observer status by the General Assembly in 1974. At the thirty-first session, the General Assembly agreed to the application of the Commonwealth Secretariat for observer status, which Canada co-sponsored. Observer status was also granted to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

2. UNITED NATIONS GROUPINGS

a. Regional groups*

PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Britain	France	United States
China	U.S.S.R.	

WESTERN EUROPE (and other States)**

Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Iceland	Norway
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Canada	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Mata	Turkey
Germany, Federal	Netherlands	
Republic of		

EASTERN EUROPE

Albania	German Democratic	Ukrainian S.S.R.
Bulgaria	Republic	Yugoslavia
Byelorussian S.S.R.	Hungary	
Czechoslovakia	Poland	
	Romania	

* These groups are unofficial and have been established to take account of the purposes of resolutions 1990 and 1991 of the XVIIIth session of the General Assembly.

** France and Britain are members of the WEO group but the United States does not participate. In regional meetings of various committees, particularly the Second and Fifth Committee, both the U.S. and Japan attend WEO meetings. For electoral purposes to subsidiary bodies (mostly economic and social) observers are considered part of WEO group and occupy seats allocated to WEO.

AFRICA AND ASIA

AFRICA

Algeria	Botswana	Central African Empire
Angola	Burundi	Chad
Benin	Cape Verde	Comoros
Congo	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Djibouti	Malawi	Somalia
Egypt	Mali	South Africa
Ethiopia	Mauritania	Sudan
Equatorial Guinea	Mauritius	Swaziland
Gabon	Morocco	Togo
Gambia	Mozambique	Tunisia
Ghana	Niger	Uganda
Guinea	Nigeria	United Republic of
Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda	Cameroon
Ivory Coast	Sao Tome and Principe	United Republic of
Kenya	Senegal	Tanzania
Lesotho	Seychelles	Upper Volta
Liberia	Libya	Zaire
		Zambia

ASIA

Afghanistan	Israel	Papua New Guinea
Bahrain	Japan	Philippines
Bangladesh	Jordan	Qatar
Burma	Kuwait	Samoa
Bhutan	Lao People's Democratic	Saudi Arabia
Cyprus	Republic	Singapore
Democratic Kampuchea	Lebanon	Sri Lanka
Democratic Yemen	Malaysia	Syrian Arab Republic
Fiji	Maldives	Thailand
India	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
Indonesia	Nepal	Viet Nam
Iran	Oman	Yemen
Iraq	Pakistan	

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Mexico
Bahamas	Ecuador	Nicaragua
Barbados	El Salvador	Panama
Bolivia	Guatemala	Paraguay
Brazil	Grenada	Peru
Chile	Guyana	Surinam
Colombia	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Honduras	Uruguay
Cuba	Jamaica	Venezuela

b. Non-aligned countries

The following participated at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1976:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Egypt, Equitorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, PLO, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Maldives, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta, Vietnam (Socialist Republic of), Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen (PDR), Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Observers:

Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, South Africa (ANC and PAC), Namibia (SWAPO), Puerto Rico (Socialist Party of), United Nations Organization, OAU, Arab League, Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, Islamic Conference, Zimbabwe (ANC).

Guests:

Austria, Finland, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland.

The Conference granted a special status to Belize, including the right to address the summit.

c. Commonwealth countries

Australia (1901)*, Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966), Botswana (1966), Britain, Canada (1867), Cyprus (1961), Fiji (1970), Gambia (1965), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1957), Malta (1964), Muritius (1968), Nauru (1968)**, New Zealand (1907), Nigeria (1960), Papua-New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Sri Lanka (1948), Swaziland (1968), Tanzania (1961), Tongo (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Western Samoa (1970), Zambia (1964).

* Date of membership

** Nauru is an associated member of the Commonwealth

d. "Group of 77"

Below are listed those generally considered to be members of the "Group of 77"*** including those governments which signed the Joint Declaration of Developing Countries at the conclusion of the First United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva in 1964:

Afghanistan*, Algeria*, Angola, Argentina*, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia*, Botswana, Brazil*, Burma*, Burundi*, Cameroon*, Cape Verde, Central African Empire*, Chad*, Chile*, Colombia*, Comoros, Congo*, Costa Rica*, Cuba, Cyprus*, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador*, Egypt*, El Salvador*, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia*, Fiji, Gabon*, Gambia, Ghana*, Grenada, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras*, India*, Indonesia*, Iran*, Iraq*, Ivory Coast, Jamaica*, Jordan*, Kenya*, Kuwait*, Laos*, Lebanon*, Lesotho, Liberia*, Libyan Arab Republic*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Malaysia*, Maldives, Mali*, Malta, Mauritania*, Mauritius, Mexico*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Nepal*, Nicaragua*, Niger*, Nigeria*, Oman, Pakistan*, Panama*, Paraguay*, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru*, Philippines*, PLO, Qatar, Republic of Korea*, Romania, Rwanda*, Samos, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal*, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Singapore, Somalia*, Sudan*, Sri Lanka*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Swaziland, Thailand*, Togo*, Trinidad and Tobago*, Tunisia*, Uganda*, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania*, Upper Volta*, Uruguay*, Venezuela*, Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)*, Yemen*, Yugoslavia*, Zaire*, Zambia.

* Original signers of the Declaration

** There are now 113 developing countries in the "Group of 77" whose name arose from the fact that 77 Governments signed the Declaration.

4. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

a. Its function

The General Assembly is the plenary organ of the United Nations and comprises representatives of all member countries.

The Assembly's formal functions are:

To consider and make recommendations on the principles of international co-operation in the maintenance of peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments;

To discuss any problem affecting peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;

To discuss and, with the same exception, to make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;

To initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political co-operation, the development of international law and its codification, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;

To receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations

To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situations regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;

To supervise, through the Trusteeship Council, the execution of the trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic;

To elect the ten non-permanent members of the Security council, those members of the Trusteeship Council that are elected; to take part with the Security Council in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice; and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General; to elect members of the Economic and Social Council. At present, the Council comprises 54 members.

b. The President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is presided over by the President, who is elected at the start of each session and holds office until its close. His general powers are to declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, direct discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of the rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. In the election of the President, due regard is had for equitable geographical rotation of the office.*

* The election of the President has the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents from the region from which the President is elected.

The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

The General Assembly also elects seventeen Vice-Presidents. If the President finds it necessary to be absent during the whole or part of a meeting, he appoints one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

In 1963, the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents would be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Seven from the Afro-Asian group
- (b) One from the East European group
- (c) Three from the Latin American group
- (d) Two from the Western European and Other Group (which includes Canada)
- (e) Five from the permanent members of the Security Council.

c. The main committees

The General Assembly deals with most of its work through seven main committees on which all members have the right to be represented. Though each member may be represented by only one person on each committee, each may assign advisers and experts to these committees. Upon the designation of the chairman of each delegation, such advisers and experts may act as members of the committee. Quorum is one-quarter of the members of each committee, but the presence of a majority of the members is required for a question to be put to the vote. Decision is by majority.

(See Rules 98-134 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)

The seven chairmen of the main committees are elected on the following pattern:

- (a) three from the Afro-Asian group
- (b) one from the East European group
- (c) one from the Latin American group
- (d) one from the Western European and Other Group
- (e) one to rotate every alternate year among representatives of groups (c) and (d).

The main committees are as follows:

FIRST COMMITTEE	- Political and Security Committee (including the regulation of armaments)
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE	- Special Political Committee (political questions not discussed by the First Committee)
SECOND COMMITTEE	- Economic and Financial Committee
THIRD COMMITTEE	- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| FOURTH COMMITTEE | - Trusteeship Committee (including non-self governing territories) |
| FIFTH COMMITTEE | - Administrative and Budgetary Committee |
| SIXTH COMMITTEE | - Legal Committee |

The General Assembly, as a rule, refers all questions on its agenda to one of the main committees, to a joint committee, or to an ad hoc committee established to consider the question. These committees then submit proposals for approval to a plenary meeting of the Assembly. Questions not referred to a main committee are dealt with by the Assembly itself in plenary meetings.

d. Other bodies

In addition to the main committees, the General Assembly is assisted mainly by the following bodies:

- (1) The General Committee, which is composed of the President, 17 Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the chairmen of the seven main committees, is a kind of steering group which meets during the first week of the session to recommend the inclusion of items in the agenda, the allocation of an agenda item to committee, and to supervise the smooth running of the Assembly's work.
- (2) The Credentials Committee, appointed by the President at each session, verifies the credentials of the representatives (both the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. traditionally have been members).
- (3) The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions provides expert examination of the UN budget.
- (4) The Committee on Contributions advises the General Assembly on the apportionment of the expenses of the organization among the members.
- (5) The Committee on Conferences advises the General Assembly on the program of conference and acts on behalf of the General Assembly between sessions.

Subsidiary and ad hoc bodies are set up as necessary.

f. Voting

Voting on important questions, such as recommendations on peace and security, election of members to the main organs, admission, suspension and expulsion of members, trusteeship questions and budgetary matters, is by two-thirds majority.

Voting on other questions is by simple majority.

Each member of the General Assembly has one vote.

In determining two-thirds or simple majorities, only "yes" and "no" votes are counted, not abstentions. However, in UN practice an abstention has come to be a respected and widely-used method of indicating a government's position on issues on which a variety of conflicting factors come into play and where a simple "yes" or "no" vote would not be an accurate reflection of the attitude of a government. Quite often explanations of a vote are made before or after the vote.

g. The General Assembly session

The General Assembly meets once a year in regular session for about three months, commencing on the third Tuesday in September. Special sessions may also be convened at the request of the Security Council, a majority of the UN members, or one member if the majority of members concur. An emergency special session may also be called within 24 hours of a request by the Security Council on the vote of any nine members of the Council, by a majority of the UN members, or by one member if the majority concur.

Sessions are opened by the President of the previous session (or the chairman of his country's delegation) and the first task on the agenda, after the appointment of the Credentials Committee, is the election of a new President for the next 12 months. The convention is firmly established that he should not be a representative of a great power. The President is elected by secret ballot, but normally private arrangements are made before the session opens to find a candidate for whom an impressive majority of the votes can be mustered.

The President's powers are limited, but able officials have done a good deal through their personal influence to smooth the work of a session and maintain the interests of the organization against the sectional pressures of the membership.

At the side of the new President will sit the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Under-Secretary General for Assembly Affairs who, in his capacity as Secretary of the General Assembly, will act as would a parliamentary clerk to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Following the election of Vice-Presidents and committee chairmen (which are the next items on the agenda), the Secretary-General proceeds to "notify" the General Assembly of "any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council".

After the adoption of the agenda itself, there follows the general debate. This "debate" will often last more than three weeks, and it is the occasion for nearly all member states to present the principal policy objectives of their governments in the form of a tour d'horizon of significant world affairs.

The general debate is followed by reports from the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These are followed in turn by the elections of members to various UN councils, boards and commissions whenever such elections are due.

All the remaining agenda items are related to specific issues. Some have become very familiar over the years, and are carried over from one year to the next. Others evidence the UN's continuing concern for tackling current problems and are added to the agenda at the request of the Secretary-General, a principal organ of the UN, or a member state.

5. THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is the main UN organ responsible for enforcement of peace and security. It is composed of 15 members; five of them are permanent members each with a veto power. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years and, according to the Charter, the criteria for election are based on "due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organizations, and also to equitable geographical distribution".

Canada was a member of the Security Council in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68. Canada was elected once again to the Council for 1977 and 1978 at the elections held during the thirty-first UN General Assembly. The membership is as follows:

	1978
Permanent members	USA USSR UK France China
Africa	Nigeria Mauritius Gabon
Asia	Kuwait India

Latin America	Bolivia Venezuela
Western Europe and others	Canada West Germany
Eastern Europeans	Czechoslovakia

6. LIST OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF SPECIAL BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Waldheim, Kurt (Austria) Secretary-General of the UN

Equivalent ranks - special bodies of the United Nations

Corea, Gamani (Sri Lanka) Secretary-General of Conference on Trade and Development

Labouisse, Henry R. (USA) Executive Director of UNICEF

Hartling, Paul (Norway) High Commissioner for Refugees

McElhiney, Thomas W. (USA) Commissioner General for UNRWA

Morse, Bradford (USA) Administrator of UNDP

Nicol, Davidson (Sierra Leone) Executive Director for UNITAR

Khane, Abderrahmane (Algeria) Executive Director for UNIDO

Tolba, Dr. Mostafa (Egypt) Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program

Blanchard, Francis (France) Director-General of ILO

Saouma, Edouard (Lebanon) Director-General of FAO

Vogel, G. (Canada) Executive-Director WFP

M'Bow, Amadou M. (Senegal) Director-General of UNESCO

Mahler, Halfdan (Denmark) Director-General of WHO

McNamara Robt.S. (USA) President of IBRD and IFC

Witteveen, H. Johannes (Netherlands) Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director of IMF

Lambert, Yves (France)	Secretary-General of ICAO
Sobhi, Mohamed Ibrahim (Egypt)	Director-General of UPU
Mili, Mohamed (Tunisia)	Secretary-General of ITU
Davies, David A. (Britain)	Secretary-General of WMO
Srivastava, C.P. (India)	Secretary-General of IMCO
Bogsch, Arpad (USA)	Director-General of WIPO
Eklund, Sigvard (Sweden)	Director-General of IAEA
Long, Oliver (Switzerland)	Director-General of GATT

C. CANADA IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. CANADA'S POLICIES AND GOALS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

As the activities of the UN touch many if not all of Canada's national objectives and policies, Canada regards the UN as an important instrument in trying to achieve these objectives and policies in their international context. Since the foreign policy review, Canadian activities in the UN system have emphasized the themes of economic growth, social justice, quality of life and peace and security.

Central to the Canadian approach is the belief that Canada should actively work to help make the UN an effective means of developing international co-operation. Equally, Canada thinks it important to help improve the capacity of the UN to carry out its Charter responsibilities.

Within the UN, Canada has focused on the following objectives, a detailed description of which is found in Foreign Policy for Canadians: United Nations (published in 1970):

- (1) contributing to social and economic development;
- (2) working to stop the arms race;
- (3) promoting peacekeeping and peace-making through the United Nations;
- (4) reconciling Canadian objectives in Southern Africa;
- (5) taking measures to prevent further deterioration in the human environment;
- (6) promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of satellite systems;
- (7) promoting international co-operation in the use of the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- (8) promoting observance of human rights, including adherence to and respect for various UN conventions;
- (9) contributing to the progressive development and codification of international law;
- (10) projecting Canada as a bilingual country within the United Nations context;
- (11) contributing to the institutional development of the UN as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Since these objectives were formulated, progress has been made towards achieving many of them, and Canadian goals have become more clearly defined with respect, for example, to the achievement of racial equality in Southern Africa and the negotiations for a revised law of the sea.

2. CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

a. The Bureau of United Nations Affairs - The Department of External Affairs -- Ottawa

The Bureau of United Nations Affairs (UNP) has been assigned responsibility for the management of Canadian policy with regard to the United Nations and co-ordination of Canada's contribution to the activities of the United Nations. A basic premise of Canadian policy is that Canada should continue to support the United Nations in fulfilling its obligations under the Charter and to work for the strengthening the United Nations system as an effective instrument for international co-operation. In pursuing these objectives, the Bureau consults closely with other bureaux and Government departments and agencies.

The United Nations Institution and Social Affairs Division (UNS) is responsible for the co-ordination of Canadian policy and activity as regards ECOSOC and its subsidiary organs, the special bodies of the United Nations, and the Specialized Agencies. Human rights matters and United Nations issues related to social development fall within the purview of this division. In addition, the Division is responsible for examining administrative, financial and procedural questions.

The United Nations Political Affairs Division (UNO) is responsible for assessing the political implications of developments in the Security Council, the General Assembly, and other United Nations organizations, and co-ordinating Canadian policy and activity in these areas. The Division is also responsible for the placement of Canadians in international organizations.

Through direction, co-ordination and liaison, both Division attempt to maximize the opportunities offered in the United Nations and related institutions for the advancement of a broad range of Canadian national goals.

b. The Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations

New York

Almost all members of the UN, including Canada, have found it necessary to maintain continuing representation at the seat of the United Nations.

The first Canadian Permanent Mission in New York was established in January 1948, with the appointment of General McNaughton as the first Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The following individuals have served in the capacity of Permanent Representative:

	<u>Permanent Representatives</u>	<u>Period</u>
	General McNaughton	January 48 - December 49
(Acting)	J.W. Holmes	January 50 - June 50
	R.G. Riddell	June 50 - June 51
	David M. Johnson	November 51 - August 55
	R.A. MacKay	August 55 - November 57
	C.S.A. Ritchie	January 58 - February 62
	P. Tremblay	July 62 - June 66
	G. Ignatieff	July 66 - February 69
	Yvon Beaulne	February 69 - June 72
	Saul F. Rae	July 72 - July 76
	William H. Barton	August 76 -

C. The Canadian Delegation to the General Assembly

The delegation of a Member shall consist of not more than five representatives, and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation (Rule 25 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation (Rule 26 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

In practice, no distinction is made between a delegate and alternate delegate (representative).

The Canadian delegation to any session of the United Nations General Assembly is appointed by Cabinet upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Normally, the delegation will consist of ten members: five representatives and five alternates. The chairman of the delegation is usually the SSEA and the vice-chairman, the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Individual members of the delegation are assigned responsibilities for one or other of the seven main committees. Invariably, the SSEA will return to Ottawa for protracted periods in the course of the session, during which time direction of the delegation devolves upon the vice-chairman.

In addition to the delegates themselves, a number of advisers are named, at least one for each of the seven main committees. The Permanent Mission in New York and the Bureau of United Nations Affairs in Ottawa provide most of the advisers assigned to the delegation but officers from other missions, other divisions in Ottawa, and other government departments may also be appointed (often for short periods to cope with specific agenda items).

Members of the Canadian Delegation to the XXXII Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Honourable Don Jamieson,
Chairman of the Delegation

Secretary of State for External
Affairs

Mr. William Barton

Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Canada to the
United Nations, New York

The Parliamentary Secretary to the
Secretary of State for External
Affairs

Miss Coline Campbell

Member of Parliament

Mr. Claude-Andre Lachance

Member of Parliament

Mr. R. Harry Jay

Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Canada to the
United Nations, Geneva

Mr. Pierre Charpentier

Ambassador of Canada to Algeria

Mr. John Small

Department of External Affairs
Former Ambassador of Canada to
the People's Republic of China

Dean R. St. J. Macdonald

Faculty of Law
Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia

Mr. William C.Y. McGregor

National President, Brotherhood
of Railway and Airline Clerks
General Vice-President, Canadian
Labour Congress

d. Observers on the Canadian Delegation

For a number of years, it has been the practice of the Canadian Government to appoint representatives from the various national political parties as parliamentary observers to sessions of the General Assembly. Senators and Members of Parliament have been selected in rough accordance with the number of seats held by each party in the respective legislative chambers.

On occasion, private citizens with a professional concern for United Nations affairs have also been appointed as observers in one or another capacity.

It is believed that as an individual becomes more aware of the potentialities and limitations of the United Nations system, so his ability to identify and evaluate possible courses of action for the resolution of international problems is enhanced. Also, while most Parliamentarians will be familiar with the problems under discussion in the United Nations, experience as an observer may contribute to a deeper understanding of specific issues troubling the world community and the way in which these issues can affect Canada.

3. CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATIONS

1. On January 1, 1977, Canada became a member of the Security Council for the fourth time. The present term expires on December 31, 1978.

By virtue of this seat, Canada became a member of the following Security Council bodies:

- Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure
- Committee on the Admission of New Members
- Committee on Southern Rhodesia

2. As a member of the United Nations, Canada is, of course, represented at each session of the United Nations General Assembly, including the seven main committees:

- First Committee (political and security)
- Special Political Committee (political questions not discussed by First Committee)
- Second Committee (economic and financial)
- Third Committee (social, humanitarian and cultural)
- Fourth Committee (trusteeship, including non-self-governing territories)
- Fifth Committee (administrative and budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (legal)

3. Canada participates in the following subsidiary or ad hoc bodies of the United Nations General Assembly:

- Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (Committee of 33)
- Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- Board of Auditors
- Committee on Conferences
- Committee on Contributions
- Disarmament Commission
- United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee
- UNSCEAR - United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
- Commission for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea
- Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)
Ad Hoc Committee on Extra-Budgetary Funds
Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training
Program for Southern Africa
Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference
Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism
Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention
against the Taking of Hostages
Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention
against Apartheid in Sport
Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General
Assembly devoted to Disarmament
Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the UN
Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social
Sectors of the UN System
Human Rights Committee
Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women
Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure

4. Canada contributes personnel to the following peacekeeping operations established by the Security Council:

UNMOGIP - United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNTSO - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
UNFICYP - United Nations Force in Cyprus
UNEF - United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East
UNDOF - United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Middle
East
UNIFIL - United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

5. Canada is not (since 1977) a member of ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) but is a member of the following ECOSOC bodies:

A. Functional Commissions -

Statistical Commission
Commission on Human Rights
Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Commission on Trans-National Corporations

B. Regional Commissions -

ECLA - Economic Commission for Latin America
ECE - Economic Commission for Europe

C. Standing Committees -

The Committee on Science and Technology for Development
The Committee on Review and Appraisal
The Committee on Natural Resources
The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning
The Human Rights Committee
The Committee on Negotiations with Inter-governmental Agencies
The Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

6. Canada is a member of the following special bodies:

- UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund (member of the Executive Board)
- UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(member of the Executive Committee)
- UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development including:
 - The Trade and Development Board
 - The Committee on Manufactures
 - The Committee on Invisibles and Financing Relating to Trade
 - Committee on Shipping
 - The Committee on Commodities
 - Committee on the Transfer of Technology
- UNDP - United Nations Development Program (member of the Governing Council)
- UNEP - United Nations Environment Program (member of the Governing Council)
- WFC - World Food Council

7. Canada is a member of the following Specialized Agencies and intergovernmental organizations:

- IAEA - International Atomic Energy Association (member of the Board of Governors)
- GATT - General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade
- ILO - International Labour Organization (member of the Governing Body)
- FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization (member of the Council)
- United Nations FAO/World Food Program - WFP (member of the Council)
- UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (member of the Executive Board)
- WHO - World Health Organization (member of the Executive Board)
- IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (member of the Board of Governors)
- IFC - International Finance Corporation (member of the Board of Governors)
- IDA - International Development Association (member of the Board of Governors)
- IMF - International Monetary Fund (member of the Board of Governors)
- ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization (member of the Council)
- UPU - Universal Postal Union (member of the Executive Board)
- ITU - International Telecommunication Union (member of the Administrative Council)
- WMO - World Meteorological Organization (member of the Executive Committee)
- IMCO - Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
- WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization
 - Inter-American Development Bank
 - African Development Bank
 - African Development Fund
 - Asian Development Bank
 - Caribbean Development Bank

4. CANADA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

a. Regular Budget for the United Nations

The United Nations operates on a biennial fiscal period which begins on January 1 of every second year. At the thirty-second session in 1977 the General Assembly voted appropriations totaling \$985.9 million (U.S.) for the biennial fiscal period 1978-79. The anticipated income for the biennium, apart from member country contributions, is \$174.1 million (U.S.). The General Assembly assessed member states \$487.8 million (U.S.) for costs to be incurred during 1978.

b. Scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The new scale of assessments for 1978-79 results from a decision taken at the thirty-second General Assembly to adopt a new scale for two years. The scale of assessments of the member state's contributions to the UN budget for the financial year are as follows (listed in order of magnitude):

U.S.A.	25.00 percent
U.S.S.R.	11.60 percent
Japan	8.64 percent
Federal Republic of Germany	7.70 percent
France	5.82 percent
China	5.50 percent
Britain	4.52 percent
Italy	3.38 percent
Canada	3.04 percent
9 member states	1.00 to 2.00 percent each
61 member states	0.03 to 1.00 percent each
17 member states	0.02 percent each
49 member states	0.01 (floor)

c. Canada's Contribution to the United Nations System - 1960 - 1978

Year*	Canada's contribution to UN regular budget (\$000 Cdn)	Percent assessment
1960	1,536	3.11
1961	1,860	3.11
1962	2,181	3.12
1963	2,356	3.12
1964	3,115	3.12
1965	2,774	3.17
1966	3,481	3.17
1967	3,588	3.17
1968	3,795	3.02
1969	4,049	3.02
1970	4,557	3.02
1971	4,891	3.08
1972	5,490	3.08
1973	5,770	3.08
1974	7,169	3.18
1975	8,838	3.18
1976	9,856	3.18
1977	9,593	2.96
1978	10,219	3.04

* Fiscal year ends on March 31.

D. Contributions to the United Nations and Special Agencies (\$000 Canadian)

	Financial Year ending March 31/76	Financial Year ending March 31/77	Total 1945-1977
A. UN regular budget	9,856	9,593	101,450
B. Peacekeeping			
UNFICYP	1,930	2,600	30,412
UNEF II	4,620	2,844	11,221
C. Social and economic programs			
UNDP	24,500	29,435	190,506
UNHCR	750	750	40,082
UNICEF	3,500	5,000	38,875
UNRWA	1,350	1,650	34,403
UNITAR	60	70	730
UNETPSA	175	225	874
WFP	10,000	10,998**	152,250
UNFPA	3,500	5,000	18,052
Committee on Racial Discrimination	3	4	17
Trust Fund for South Africa	10	10	10
Fund for Drug Abuse Control	200	200	1,150
UN Voluntary Fund for Environment	--	3,618	3,622
D. Specialized Agencies and IAEA			
ILO	2,761	2,386	21,953
FAO	3,321	3,293	28,971
WHO	3,676	2,650	35,799
UNESCO	2,491	2,523	25,140
ICAO	443	478	7,077
IMCO	42	50	349
ITU	690	928	5,719
WMO	243	149	1,538
UPU	130	292	1,298
IAEA (Regular and operational budgets)	1,115	1,514	8,734
GATT	651	697	4,595
WIPO	145	207	465
E. UN Association in Canada	35	55	525

* Canada ranks as sixth to ninth largest contributor to the budget of the United Nations and its related agencies.

** This does not include a contribution of approximately \$78 million (Cdn) in food aid.

Budget of United Nations and its related agencies

		<u>1977 Budget (\$U.S.)</u>	<u>Canada's contribution (percent)</u>	<u>No. of establishe posts for 1978*</u>
UN	United Nations	487,800,000	2.96	10,648
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency *Vienna	43,501,000	3.48	1,374
ILO	International Labour Organization *Geneva	62,941,000	4.01	1,460
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization *Rome	79,826,000	4.12	3,815
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Paris	112,201,500	3.12	2,224
WHO	World Health Organization *Geneva	147,184,000	1.80	2,240
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization *Montreal	19,101,000	2.57	705
UPU	Universal Postal Union *Bern	6,106,500	4.78	117
ITU	International Telecommuni- cation Union *Geneva	33,315,000	2.79	513
WMO	World Meteorological Organization *Geneva	10,353,900	1.44	235
IMCO	Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization *London	6,188,100	0.81	228
GATT	General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade *Geneva	16,380,000		225

WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization *Geneva	10,980,000	1.88	194
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* Headquarters location

** The total number of staff in established posts on a given date is larger than the number of these regular-budget posts. Costs for additional temporary personnel (e.g. consultants) is usually included in the regular budget and in extra-budgetary allowances. Also not all established posts are filled on a year-round basis and several agencies apply a vacancy or turn-over deduction to their staff costs.

Acronyms and Short Forms

AECL	- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
ACABQ	- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	- Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
Committee of 24	- Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
CCD	- Conference of the Committee on Disarmament
CIDA	- Canadian International Development Agency
EEC	- European Economic Community
ECA	- Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	- Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	- Economic Commission for Latin America
ECOSOC	- Economic and Social Council
ECWA	- Economic Commission for Western Asia
EDC	- Export Development Corporation
ESCAP	- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
GATT	- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	- International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	- International Civil Aviation Organization
IDA	- International Development Association
ILO	- International Labour Organization
IMCO	- Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	- International Monetary Fund
ITU	- International Telecommunication Union
NATO	- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAS	- Organization of American States
OAU	- Organization of African Unity
OECD	- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PLO	- Palestine Liberation Organization
UNCITRAL	- UN Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	- UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDOF	- UN Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	- UN Development Program
UNEF	- UN Emergency Force
UNEP	- UN Environment Program
UNESCO	- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP	- UN Force in Cyprus
UNHCR	- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	- UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	- UN Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	- UN Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCGEAR	- UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
UPU	- Universal Postal Union
WFP	- World Food Program
WHO	- World Health Organization
WIPO	- World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	- World Meteorological Organization

SEE	- Société pour l'expansion des exportations
UIT	- Union internationale des télécommunications
UNESCO	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
UNFICYP	- Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre
UNHCR	- Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés
UNITAR	- Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche
UNRWA	- Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient
UNSCEAR	- Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnement ionisants
UPU	- Union postale universelle

D. SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

ACDI	- Agence canadienne de développement international
AIEA	- Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
BIRD	- Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement
CAC	- Comité administratif de coordination
CCD	- Conférence de la Commission du désarmement
CCQAB	- Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires
CEA	- Commission économique pour l'Afrique
CEAO	- Commission économique pour l'Asie occidentale
CEE	- Commission économique pour l'Europe
CEE	- Communauté économique européenne
CEPAL	- Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine
CESAP	- Commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique
CNUCED	- Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement
CNUDCI	- Commission des Nations Unies pour le droit commercial international
Comité des 24	- Comité spécial chargé d'étudier la situation en ce qui concerne l'application de la Déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux
EACL	- Énergie atomique du Canada, limitée
ECOSOC	- Conseil économique et social
FAO	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
FISE	- Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
FMI	- Fonds monétaire international
FNUOD	- Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le dégagement
FUNU	- Force d'urgence des Nations Unies
GATT	- Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce
IDA	- Association internationale de développement
OACI	- Organisation de l'Aviation civile internationale
OCDE	- Organisation pour la coopération et le développement économiques
OECA	- Organisation des États américains
OIT	- Organisation internationale du travail
OLP	- Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine
OMCI	- Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime
OMM	- Organisation météorologique mondiale
OMPI	- Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle
OMS	- Organisation mondiale de la santé
ONUDI	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel
OTAN	- Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord
OUA	- Organisation de l'unité africaine
PAM	- Programme alimentaire mondial
PNUD	- Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement
PNUE	- Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Budget des Nations Unies et de ses institutions connexes

OMM	Organisation météoro- logique mondiale * Genève	10,353,900	1.44	235
OMCI	Organisation intergou- vernementale consulta- tive de la navigation maritime * Londres	6,188,100	.81	228
GATT	Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce * Genève	16,380,000		225
OMPI	Organisation mondiale de la propriété intel- lectuelle * Genève	10,980,000	1.98	194

* Siège social

** L'effectif total autorisé pour une date donnée est plus grand que celui prévu par le budget ordinaire. Les frais occasionnés par le recrutement de personnel temporaire supplémentaire (experts-conseils) sont habituellement inclus dans le budget ordinaire et les allocations extrabudgétaires. En outre, les postes autorisés ne sont pas tous comblés sur une période d'un an et plusieurs institutions appliquent une allocation de roulement ou de vacance à leurs frais de personnel.

Budget des Nations Unies et de ses institutions connexes

Contribution du Canada (pourcentage)	Effectifs autorisés pour 1978**	Budget de 1977 (dollars EU)	Organisation des Nations Unies	487,800,000	2.96	10,648	AIEA	Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique * Vienne	43,501,000	3.48	1,374	OIT	Organisation interna- tionale du travail * Genève	62,941,000	4.01	1,460	FAO	Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture * Rome	79,826,000	4.12	3,815	UNESCO	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture * Paris	112,201,500	3.12	2,224	OMS	Organisation mondiale de la santé * Genève	147,184,000	1.80	2,240	OACI	Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale * Montréal	19,101,000	2.57	705	UPU	Union postale universelle * Berne	6,106,500	4.78	117	UIT	Union internationale des télécommunications * Genève	33,315,000	2.79	513
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* Siège social

** L'effectif total autorisé pour une date donnée est plus grand que celui prévu par le budget ordinaire. Les frais occasionnés par le recrutement de personnel temporaire supplémentaire (experts-conseils) sont habituellement inclus dans le budget ordinaire et les allocations extrabudgétaires. En outre, les postes autorisés ne sont pas tous comblés sur une période d'un an et plusieurs institutions appliquent une allocation de roulement ou de vacance à leurs frais de personnel.

(En milliers de dollars canadiens)

Année financière	Association des Nations Unies au Canada	
	Année financière se terminant le	31 mars 1976
Année financière se terminant le	31 mars 1977	
Total	1945-1977	
	525	35

Le Canada se place généralement au sixième, septième ou huitième rang des pays contributeurs au budget de l'ONU et de ses institutions.

* Exception faite d'une contribution d'environ 78 millions de dollars CAN au titre de l'aide alimentaire.

(En milliers de dollars canadiens)

B. Forces de maintien de la paix		C. Programmes économiques et sociaux		D. Institutions spécialisées et AIEA	
Année financière se terminant le 31 mars 1976	Année financière se terminant le 31 mars 1977	Total 1945-1977			
UNFICYP	1,930	2,600	30,412		
FUNU II	4,620	2,844	11,221		
PNUD	24,500	29,435	190,506		
HCR	750	750	40,082		
FISE	3,500	5,000	38,875		
UNRWA	1,350	1,650	34,403		
UNITAR	60	70	730		
UNEP/SA	175	225	874		
PAM	10,000	*10,998	152,250		
FNUAP	3,500	5,000	18,052		
Comité pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale	3	4	17		
Fonds d'affectation spécial pour l'Afrique du Sud	10	10	70		
Fonds pour la lutte contre l'abus des drogues	200	200	1,150		
Fonds bénévoles pour l'environnement	-	3,618	3,622		
OIT	2,761	2,386	21,953		
FAO	3,321	3,293	28,971		
OMS	3,676	2,650	35,799		
UNESCO	2,491	2,523	25,140		
OACI	443	478	7,077		
OMCI	42	50	349		
UIT	690	928	5,719		
OMM	243	149	1,538		
UPU	130	292	1,298		
AIEA (Budgets ordinaires et opérationnels)	1,115	1,514	8,734		
GATT	651	697	4,595		
OMPI	145	207	465		

c)

Contributions financières du Canada à l'ensemble des organismes des Nations Unies - 1960 - 1978	
France	5.82 pour cent
Chine	5.50 pour cent
Grande-Bretagne	4.52 pour cent
Italie	3.38 pour cent
Canada	3.04 pour cent
9 Etats membres	1 à 2 pour cent chacun
61 Etats membres	0.03 à 1 pour cent chacun
17 Etats membres	0.02 pour cent chacun
49 Etats membres	0.01 pour cent (quote-part minimale)

d)

* L'année financière se termine le 31 mars		
Année*	Budget ordinaire de l'ONU (\$000 CAN)	Quote-part (pourcentage)
1960	1,536	3.11
1961	1,860	3.11
1962	2,181	3.12
1963	2,356	3.12
1964	3,115	3.12
1965	2,774	3.17
1966	3,481	3.17
1967	3,588	3.17
1968	3,795	3.02
1969	4,049	3.02
1970	4,557	3.02
1971	4,891	3.08
1972	5,490	3.08
1973	5,770	3.08
1974	7,169	3.18
1975	8,838	3.18
1976	9,856	3.18
1977	9,593	2.96
1978	10,219	3.04

Les contributions aux Nations Unies et aux agences spécialisées

(En milliers de dollars canadiens)

A. Budget ordinaire de l'ONU		
Année financière se terminant le	31 mars 1976	31 mars 1977
Total	9,856	9,593
1945-1977		101,450

4. Les contributions financières du Canada à l'ONU
- a) Le budget ordinaire des Nations Unies
- L'ONU a adopté un exercice financier biennal qui commence le 1^{er} janvier. En 1977, lors de sa trente-deuxième session, l'Assemblée générale a voté des crédits de 985.9 millions de \$EU pour l'exercice financier biennal de 1978-1979. Exception faite des quotes-parts nationales, les prévisions des recettes s'établissent à 174.1 millions de \$EU. L'Assemblée générale a fixé à 487.8 millions de \$EU la contribution des Etats membres pour les frais prévus pour 1978.
- b) Le barème des quotes-parts pour la répartition des dépenses de l'ONU
- La trente-deuxième Assemblée générale a décidé d'adopter un nouveau barème des quotes-parts pour deux ans. Voici, en ordre décroissant, la contribution de chacun des membres pour l'exercice financier 1978-1979.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Etats-Unis | 25 pour cent |
| URSS | 11.60 pour cent |
| Japon | 8.64 pour cent |
| République fédérale d'Allemagne | 7.70 pour cent |
- UNESCO - Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (membre du Conseil exécutif)
- OMS - Organisation mondiale de la santé (membre du Conseil exécutif)
- BIRD - Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
- SFI - Société financière internationale (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
- AID - Association internationale pour le développement (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
- FMI - Fonds monétaire international (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
- OACI - Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (membre du Conseil)
- UPU - Union postale universelle (membre du Conseil exécutif)
- UIT - Union internationale des télécommunications (membre du Conseil d'administration)
- OMM - Organisation météorologique mondiale (membre du Comité exécutif)
- OMCI - Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime
- OMPI - Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle
- BID - Banque interaméricaine de développement
- BAD - Banque africaine de développement
- FAD - Fonds africain de développement
- BASD - Banque asiatique de développement
- BDC - Banque de développement des Caraïbes

C. Comités permanents -

Comité de la science et de la technologie au service du développement
Comité de l'examen et de l'évaluation
Comité des ressources naturelles
Comité de l'habitation, de la construction et de la planification
Comité des droits de l'homme
Comité chargé des négociations avec les organisations intergouvernementales
Comité d'experts en matière de transport des marchandises dangereuses

6.

Le Canada est membre des organismes spéciaux suivants :

FISE - Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (membre du Conseil d'administration)
HCR - Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (membre du Comité exécutif)
CNUCED - Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement, y compris :

- le Conseil du commerce et du développement
- la Commission des articles manufacturés
- la Commission des invisibles et du financement lié au commerce
- la Commission des transports maritimes
- le Comité sur les produits de base
- le Comité du transfert des technologies

PNUD - Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (membre du Conseil d'administration)
PNUE - Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
CMA - Conseil mondial de l'alimentation

7. Le Canada est membre des institutions spécialisées et des organisations intergouvernementales suivantes :

AIEA - Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (membre du Conseil des gouverneurs)
GATT - Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce (membre du Conseil d'administration)
OIT - Organisation internationale du travail (membre du Conseil d'administration)
FAO - Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (membre du Conseil)
Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) de la FAO des Nations Unies (membre du Conseil)

Comité consultatif du Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe
Comité ad hoc pour la Conférence mondiale du désarmement
Comité des relations avec le pays hôte
Comité spécial du terrorisme international
Comité spécial pour l'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre la prise d'otages
Comité spécial pour la rédaction d'une convention internationale contre l'apartheid dans les sports
Comité préparatoire de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies consacrée au désarmement
Comité de négociation sur la crise financière de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
Comité spécial de la restructuration des secteurs économiques et sociaux du système des Nations Unies
Comité des droits de l'homme
Comité consultatif du Fonds de contributions volontaires pour la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme
Comité d'experts sur le Règlement intérieur

4. Le Canada fournit des effectifs aux opérations suivantes de maintien de la paix mises sur pied par le Conseil de sécurité:

UNMOGIP - Groupe d'observateurs militaires des Nations Unies pour l'Inde et le Pakistan
ONUST - Organisation des Nations Unies chargé de la surveillance de la trêve en Palestine
UNFICYP - Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre
FUNU - Force d'urgence des Nations Unies au Moyen-Orient
FNUOD - Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le dégellement au Moyen-Orient

5. Le Canada n'est plus (depuis 1977) membre de l'ECOSOC (Conseil économique et social), mais il fait partie des organismes suivants de l'ECOSOC:

A. Commissions fonctionnelles -

Commission de statistiques
Commission des droits de l'homme
Commission des stupéfiants
Commission pour les sociétés multinationales

B. Commissions régionales -

CEPAL - Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine
CEE - Commission économique pour l'Europe

Une conscience accrue des possibilités et des limites de l'Organisation des Nations Unies est susceptible d'améliorer l'attitude de chacun à percevoir et à évaluer les solutions possibles aux problèmes internationaux. De plus, si les problèmes étudiés aux Nations Unies ne sont pas, en général, étrangers aux parlements, il n'en est pas moins vrai que, dans leur rôle d'observateur, ceux-ci pourront acquérir une connaissance plus approfondie des questions qui préoccupent la communauté mondiale et des répercussions qu'elles peuvent avoir sur le Canada.

3. La participation du Canada aux Nations Unies et à ses organisations
1. Le 1er janvier 1977, le Canada est devenu membre du Conseil de sécurité pour la quatrième fois. Son mandat actuel expire le 31 décembre 1978.

Par conséquent, il est devenu membre des organismes suivants du Conseil de sécurité:

Le Comité d'experts sur le Règlement intérieur
Le Comité d'admission de nouveaux membres
Le Comité de la Rhodésie du Sud

2. En sa qualité de membre des Nations Unies, le Canada est naturellement représenté à chaque session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ainsi qu'à ses sept principales commissions:

Première Commission (questions politiques et de sécurité)
Commission politique spéciale (questions politiques dont ne s'occupe pas la Première Commission)
Quatrième Commission (questions se rapportant aux territoires sous tutelle et aux territoires non autonomes)
Cinquième Commission (questions administratives et budgétaires)
Sixième Commission (questions juridiques)

3. Le Canada participe aux organismes subsidiaires ou spéciaux suivants de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies:

Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix (Comité des 33)

Comité des commissaires aux comptes
Comité des conférences

Comité des contributions
Comité du désarmement

Comité consultatif scientifique des Nations Unies
UNSCAP - Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des

effets des rayonnements ionisants
Commission du cimetière commémorant les morts des Nations Unies en

Corée

Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique
Conférence du Comité du désarmement (CCD)

Comité spécial des fonds extra-budgétaires

d) Les observateurs au sein de la délégation du Canada

Membres de la délégation du Canada
à la XXXII^e session ordinaire
de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies

L'honorable Don Jamieson,
Président de la délégation
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires
extérieures

M. William Barton
Ambassadeur et représentant permanent
du Canada près les Nations Unies,
New York

Secrétaire parlementaire du
Secrétaire d'Etat aux
Affaires extérieures

Mlle Coline Campbell
Député

M. Claude-André Lachance
Député

M. R. Harry Jay
Ambassadeur et représentant permanent
du Canada près les Nations Unies,
Genève

M. Pierre Charpentier
Ambassadeur du Canada en Algérie

M. John Small
Ministère des Affaires extérieures.
Ancien ambassadeur du Canada en
République populaire de Chine

M. R. St. J. MacDonald
Doyen

Faculté de droit
Université Dalhousie,
Nouvelle-Ecosse

M. William C.Y. McGregor
Président national, Fraternité des
commis de chemins de fer et de lignes
aériennes
Vice-président général, Congrès du
travail du Canada

Depuis un certain nombre d'années, le gouvernement du Canada dési-
gne à titre d'observateurs parlementaires des représentants des divers partis
politiques fédéraux. Ces observateurs qui accompagnent la délégation du
Canada à l'Assemblée générale sont choisis au Sénat et à la Chambre des
communes en nombre relativement proportionnel au nombre de sièges détenus par
chaque parti.

A l'occasion, des Canadiens s'intéressant, de par leur profession,
aux affaires des Nations Unies ont aussi été nommés observateurs à divers
titres.

c) La délégation du Canada à l'Assemblée générale

Représentants permanents	Période
C.S.A. Ritchie	Janvier 1958 - février 1962
P. Tremblay	Juillet 1962 - juin 1966
G. Ignatieff	Juillet 1966 - février 1969
Yvon Beaulne	Février 1969 - juin 1972
Saul F. Rae	Juillet 1972 - juillet 1976
William H. Barton	Août 1976 -

"La délégation d'un Etat membre comprend cinq représentants et cinq suppléants au plus, et autant de conseillers techniques, d'experts et de personnes de catégorie analogue qu'elle juge nécessaire". (Article 25 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale.)

"Un représentant peut agir en qualité de représentant sur désignation du chef de la délégation intéressée." (Article 26 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale.)

Dans la pratique, on ne fait aucune distinction entre un délégué et un délégué suppléant (représentant).

La délégation du Canada à toute session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies est nommée par le Cabinet sur la recommandation du secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures. La délégation comprend habituellement dix membres: cinq représentants et cinq suppléants. Le président de la délégation est habituellement le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures et le vice-président, le représentant permanent du Canada auprès des Nations Unies. Les autres membres de la délégation se voient confier des responsabilités à l'égard de l'une ou l'autre de sept grandes commissions. Invariablement, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures retourne à Ottawa au cours de la session pour des périodes assez longues; en son absence, la direction de la délégation incombe au vice-président.

En plus des délégués eux-mêmes, on nomme un certain nombre de conseillers, au moins un pour chacune des grandes commissions. La Mission permanente à New York et le Bureau des affaires des Nations Unies à Ottawa fournissent le noyau des conseillers, mais d'autres missions, d'autres directions à Ottawa et d'autres ministères du gouvernement envoient aussi, souvent pour de courtes périodes des agents chargés de questions précises inscrites à l'ordre du jour.

2. La participation du Canada à l'Assemblée générale

a) Le Bureau des affaires des Nations Unies

Le Bureau des affaires des Nations Unies (UNP) a reçu la responsabilité de gérer la politique du Canada concernant les Nations Unies et de coordonner sa participation aux activités de l'ONU. La politique du Canada repose sur le principe que le pays doit continuer à aider l'ONU à remplir les obligations que lui impose sa Charte et oeuvrer au renforcement de l'ONU instrument concret de coopération internationale. La poursuite de ces objectifs se fait en consultation étroite avec les autres bureaux, ministères et organismes du gouvernement.

La Direction des affaires institutionnelles et sociales des Nations Unies (UNS) est chargée de coordonner la politique et l'activité du Canada qui touchent le Conseil économique et social et ses organes subsidiaires, les organismes spécialisés des Nations Unies et les agences spécialisées. Les questions des droits de l'homme et les Nations Unies liées au développement social ressortissent à cette Direction. En outre, elle est chargée d'examiner les questions administratives, financières et procéduriers.

La Direction des affaires politiques des Nations Unies (UNO) évalue les implications politiques des événements survenus au Conseil de sécurité, à l'Assemblée générale et dans les autres organisations de l'ONU, et coordonne la politique et les activités du Canada dans ces domaines. Elle se charge également du placement de Canadiens dans les organisations internationales. En assumant la direction, la coordination et la liaison, les deux directions s'efforcent d'exploiter au maximum les possibilités de réalisation d'un large éventail d'objectifs nationaux du Canada à l'ONU et dans ses institutions.

b) La mission permanente du Canada aux Nations Unies

New York

La presque totalité des membres de l'ONU, dont le Canada, ont constaté qu'il est nécessaire d'être représenté de façon permanente au siège des Nations Unies.

La première mission permanente du Canada à New York a été créée en janvier 1948 lorsque le général McNaughton a été nommé représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies. Voici les personnes qui ont occupé ce poste:

Représentants permanents

Général McNaughton
J.W. Holmes (par intérim)
R.G. Riddeil
David M. Johnson
R.A. Mackay
Janvier 1948 - décembre 1949
Janvier 1950 - juin 1950
Juin 1950 - juin 1951
Novembre 1951 - août 1955
Août 1955 - novembre 1957

Période

Comme les activités des Nations Unies touchent plusieurs sinon tous les objectifs et politiques que le Canada s'est fixés à l'échelle nationale, ce dernier considère les Nations Unies comme un instrument important en ce qui concerne la réalisation de ces objectifs et politiques dans leur contexte international. Depuis la révision de sa politique étrangère, le Canada a surtout mis l'accent à l'ONU sur les thèmes suivants: croissance économique, justice sociale, qualité de la vie et paix et sécurité.

L'attitude du Canada se fonde sur le principe que sa participation active pourra aider les Nations Unies à devenir un instrument efficace de coopération internationale et sur la conviction qu'il importe d'appuyer l'organisation de façon à ce qu'elle puisse mieux réaliser les objectifs de sa Charte.

Le Canada poursuit à l'ONU les objectifs suivants, dont on trouvera une description détaillée dans le document intitulé "Politique étrangère au service des Canadiens": Nations Unies (publié en 1970):

1. Contribuer au développement économique et social.
2. S'efforcer de freiner la course aux armements.
3. Contribuer à l'établissement et au maintien de la paix au sein des Nations Unies.
4. Concilier les objectifs du Canada en Afrique australe.
5. Collaborer à l'assainissement du milieu humain.
6. Encourager la coopération dans l'usage pacifique du réseau de satellites internationaux.
7. Développer la coopération internationale dans l'usage des fonds marins au delà des limites de la juridiction nationale.
8. Promouvoir le respect des droits de l'homme, l'adhésion aux conventions des Nations Unies et leur observance.
9. Contribuer au développement et à la codification du droit international.
10. Exprimer la dualité linguistique du Canada aux Nations Unies.
11. Participer au développement des institutions de l'ONU, lieu où s'harmonisent les politiques nationales.

Des progrès ont été réalisés dans la poursuite de ces objectifs depuis qu'ils ont été formulés, et les visées canadiennes ont été définies avec plus de clarté en ce qui a trait, par exemple, à la réalisation de l'égalité raciale en Afrique australe et aux négociations sur l'élaboration d'un nouveau droit de la mer.

Saouma, Edouard (Liban) Directeur général de la FAO

M'Bow, Amadou M. (Sénégal) Directeur général de l'UNESCO

Mahler, Hatfdan (Danemark) Directeur général de l'OMS

McNamara Robert S. (E-U) Président de la BIRD et de la SFI

Witteveen, H. Johannes (Pays-Bas) Président du Conseil d'administration du FMI

Lambert, Yves (France) Secrétaire général de l'OACI

Sobhi, Mohamed Ibrahim (Egypte) Directeur général de l'UPU

Miti, Mohamed (Tunisie) Secrétaire général de l'UIT

Davies, David A. (R-U) Secrétaire général de l'OMM

Srivastava, C.P. (Inde) Secrétaire général de l'OMCI

Bogsch, Arpad (E-U) Directeur général de l'OMPI

AIEA

La constitution de l'Agence internationale de l'Energie atomique est entrée en vigueur le 29 juillet 1957. Cette agence n'est pas une institution spécialisée de l'ONU mais plutôt une organisation intergouvernementale indépendante, sous l'égide des Nations Unies. Le but de cette agence, tel que défini pas sa constitution, est d'accélérer et de renforcer les effets de l'emploi de l'énergie atomique sur le plan de la paix, de la santé et de la prospérité dans le monde. M. Sigvard Ekund (Suède) est le directeur général de l'AIEA.

Le GATT

En théorie, l'Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce (GATT) constitue un palier intermédiaire vers une organisation internationale plus complète. En pratique, toutefois, cette organisation existe depuis trente ans en tant qu'organe virtuellement autonome, administré par son propre secrétariat et régi par les parties contractantes de l'Accord, notamment par le Canada. Actuellement, 84 pays sont membres du GATT et les principales négociations commerciales multilatérales ont été conduites sous ses auspices. Le directeur général de l'Accord est M. Olivier Long (Suisse).

6. La liste des hauts fonctionnaires des organismes spéciaux et des institutions spécialisées

Waltheim, Kurt (Autriche) Secrétaire général de l'ONU
Hauts fonctionnaires des organismes spéciaux des Nations Unies de rang équivalent

Corea, Gamani (Sri Lanka) Secrétaire général de la Conférence sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED)

Labouisse, Henry R. (E-U) Directeur général du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE/UNICEF)

Hartling, Paul (Norvège) Haut-Commissaire pour les réfugiés

McElhinney, Thomas W. (E-U) Commissaire général de l'Office de secours et de travaux pour les réfugiés de la Palestine dans le Proche-Orient (UNRWA)

Morse, Bradford (E-U) Administrateur des Programmes des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)

Nicol, Davidson (Sierre Leone) Directeur général de l'Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche

Khane, Abderrahmane (Algérie) Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI)

Tolba, Dr. Mostafa (Egypte) Directeur général du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUC)

Institutions spécialisées, AIEA et GATT

Blanchard, Francis (France) Directeur général de l'OIT

Après l'élection des vice-présidents de Commissions (points suivants de l'ordre du jour), le secrétaire général signalé à l'Assemblée générale "toutes questions relatives au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales dont le Conseil de sécurité a été saisi".

Une fois l'ordre du jour adopté, il y a une discussion générale qui dure souvent plus de trois semaines, à cette occasion, presque tous les Etats membres présentent les principaux objectifs de la politique de leurs gouvernements sous la forme d'un tour d'horizon des grandes affaires mondiales.

La discussion générale est suivie de la présentation des rapports du secrétaire général, du Conseil de sécurité, du Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC), du Conseil de tutelle, de la Cour internationale de Justice (CIJ) et de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA). Viennent ensuite les élections des membres de divers conseils, comités et commissions de l'ONU.

Tous les autres points de l'ordre du jour ont trait à des questions déterminées. Certaines sont connues de longue date et sont reportées d'une session à l'autre. D'autres traduisent le souci qu'ont les Nations Unies d'aborder les problèmes de l'heure et sont ajoutées à l'ordre du jour à la demande du secrétaire général, d'un des organes principaux des Nations Unies ou d'un Etat membre.

5. Le Conseil de sécurité

Le Conseil de sécurité est le principal organe de l'ONU chargé du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité. Il est composé de quinze membres, dont cinq sont permanents et jouissent chacun d'un droit de veto. Les dix membres non permanents sont élus pour une période de deux ans par l'Assemblée générale qui, pour ce faire, "tient spécialement compte, en premier lieu, de la contribution des Membres de l'Organisation au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales et aux autres fins de l'Organisation, et aussi d'une répartition géographique équitable" (Charte des Nations Unies).

Pour sa part, le Canada a fait partie du Conseil de sécurité en 1948-1949, en 1958-1959 et en 1967-1968 et lors de la 31^e session de l'Assemblée générale, il a été réélu pour les années 1977-1978.

La composition du Conseil de sécurité est la suivante:

1978

Membres permanents	Etats-Unis	URSS	Royaume-Uni	France	Chine
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f) Le vote

Le vote sur des questions importantes (recommandations sur la paix et la sécurité, élection de membres des organismes, admission, suspension et expulsion des membres, questions de tutelle et questions budgétaires) se fait à la majorité des deux tiers des membres présents et votants.

Le vote sur les autres questions se fait à la majorité simple des voix. Chaque membre de l'Assemblée générale dispose d'une voix.

Pour déterminer les majorités des deux tiers ou les majorités simples, seuls les "oui" et les "non" sont comptés, non les abstentions. Toutefois, dans la pratique des Nations Unies, l'abstention est devenue un moyen respecté et largement utilisé d'indiquer la position d'un gouvernement sur des questions à l'égard desquelles divers éléments contradictoires entrent en jeu et dans les cas où un simple vote par "oui", ou par "non" ne serait pas une expression exacte de son attitude. Il y a très souvent des explications de vote, avant ou après la mise aux voix.

g) La session de l'Assemblée générale

L'Assemblée générale se réunit en session ordinaire, chaque année, le troisième mardi de septembre. Cette session dure environ trois mois. Des sessions extraordinaires peuvent également être convoquées à la demande du Conseil de sécurité, d'une majorité des membres des Nations Unies, ou d'un membre (si la majorité des membres l'approuve). Une session extraordinaire d'urgence peut aussi être convoquée dans un délai de vingt-quatre heures après réception d'une demande à cet effet émanant soit du Conseil de sécurité à la suite d'un vote affirmatif de neuf membres de ce Conseil, soit de la majorité des membres des Nations Unies ou d'un membre (si la majorité l'approuve).

Les sessions sont ouvertes par le président de la session antérieure (ou par le président de la délégation de son pays) et la première tâche à l'ordre du jour, après la nomination du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, est l'élection d'un nouveau président pour les douze mois à venir. Une tradition bien établie veut que le président ne soit pas le représentant d'une grande puissance. Il est élu par scrutin secret, mais normalement des arrangements privés sont faits avant l'ouverture de la session pour qu'on trouve un candidat qui puisse obtenir une forte majorité.

Les pouvoirs du président sont limités, mais un haut fonctionnaire compétent peut faire beaucoup par son influence personnelle pour aplanir les difficultés d'une session et pour sauvegarder les intérêts de l'Organisation en dépit des pressions des divers groupes d'États.

À côté du nouveau président sont assis le secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le sous-secrétaire général aux affaires de l'Assemblée qui, en qualité de secrétaire de l'Assemblée générale, joue un rôle analogue à celui du greffier du parlement par rapport à l'orateur de la Chambre des communes.

LA PREMIERE COMMISSION

- Commission des questions politiques et de sécurité (y compris la réglementation des armements)

LA COMMISSION POLITIQUE SPECIALE

- Commission responsable des questions politiques non examinées par la Première Commission

LA DEUXIEME COMMISSION

- Commission économique et financière
- Commission des questions sociales, humanitaires et culturelles
- Commission de tutelle (y compris les territoires non autonomes)
- Commission des questions administratives et budgétaires
- Commission des questions juridiques

LA SIXIEME COMMISSION

L'Assemblée, en règle générale, renvoie toutes les questions inscrites à son ordre du jour à l'une des grandes commissions, à un comité mixte ou à un comité spécial établi pour la circonstance. Ces organes soumettent leurs propositions à l'approbation de l'Assemblée réunie en séance plénière. Les questions dont l'étude n'a pas été confiée à l'une des grandes commissions sont traitées par l'Assemblée elle-même en séance plénière.

d)

Les autres organes

En plus des grandes commissions, différents organes aident l'Assemblée générale dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche:

1) Le Bureau, qui se compose du président, des dix-sept vice-présidents de l'Assemblée, et des présidents des sept grandes commissions, est un organe de direction qui se réunit pendant la première semaine de la session pour recommander l'inscription de points à l'ordre du jour, l'attribution de points de l'ordre du jour aux commissions et pour surveiller le bon fonctionnement du travail de l'Assemblée;

2) Le Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, qui est nommé par le président à chaque session, vérifie les pouvoirs des représentants (l'URSS et les Etats-Unis sont traditionnellement membres du Comité);

3) Le Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires, qui comprend des experts financiers, est chargé de l'examen du budget des Nations Unies;

4) Le Comité des contributions conseille l'Assemblée générale au sujet de la répartition des dépenses de l'Organisation parmi les membres;

5) Le Comité des conférences conseille l'Assemblée générale quant au programme de conférences et entre les sessions, agit au nom de celle-ci.

Des organes subsidiaires et spéciaux sont constitués s'il y a lieu.

Lors de l'élection du président on tient compte du principe voulant que des représentants des diverses régions doivent occuper ce poste à tour de rôle.

Les vice-présidents

L'Assemblée générale élit aussi dix-sept vice-présidents. Si le président est obligé de s'absenter pendant une séance ou une partie de séance, il charge un des vice-présidents de le remplacer.

En 1963, l'Assemblée générale a décidé que les vice-présidents seraient élus suivant la répartition suivante:

- a) sept du groupe afro-asiatique
- b) un du groupe de l'Europe orientale
- c) trois du groupe de l'Amérique latine
- d) deux du groupe de l'Europe occidentale et des autres pays (qui comprend le Canada)
- e) cinq des États qui sont membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité

Remarque: L'élection du président a pour effet de réduire d'une personne le nombre des vice-présidents de la région à laquelle il appartient.

c) Les grandes commissions

L'Assemblée générale accomplit la plus grande partie de son travail par l'intermédiaire de sept grandes commissions auprès desquelles tous les membres ont le droit d'être représentés. Chaque membre peut être représenté seulement par une personne à chacune des grandes commissions, mais il peut aussi affecter des conseillers et des experts à ses commissions. Sur désignation du président de la délégation intéressée, ces conseillers et experts peuvent agir en qualité de membres de la commission, mais la présence de la majorité des membres est requise pour la mise aux voix d'une question. Les décisions sont prises à la majorité des voix. (Voir le Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale, article 98-134.)

Les sept présidents des grandes commissions sont élus en respectant la répartition géographique suivante:

- a) trois du groupe afro-asiatique
- b) un du groupe de l'Europe orientale
- c) trois du groupe de l'Amérique latine
- d) un du groupe de l'Europe occidentale et des autres pays
- e) un de l'un des deux groupes précédents, alternative-ment, chaque année.

Les grandes commissions sont:

4. L'Assemblée générale

a) Ses fonctions

L'Assemblée générale est l'organe plénier des Nations Unies et groupe les représentants de tous les Etats membres.

Ses fonctions officielles sont les suivantes:

examiner les principes de la coopération internationale pour le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité, y compris les principes du désarmement et du contrôle des armements, et faire des recommandations à ce sujet;

discuter tout problème qui touche à la paix et à la sécurité et, sauf dans les cas où un différend ou une situation est à l'étude au Conseil de sécurité, faire des recommandations à cet égard;

discuter toute question qui entre dans le cadre de l'application de la Charte ou qui touche aux pouvoirs et fonctions de tout organe des Nations Unies et, sauf dans les cas susmentionnés, faire des recommandations sur la question;

engager des études et faire des recommandations visant à promouvoir la coopération politique internationale, le développement du droit international et sa codification, la réalisation des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous et la collaboration internationale dans les domaines économique, social, culturel, éducatif et sanitaire;

recevoir et examiner les rapports du Conseil de sécurité et des autres organes des Nations Unies;

faire des recommandations pour le règlement pacifique de toutes les situations qui pourraient mettre en danger les relations amicales entre nations, quelle que soit l'origine de ces situations;

surveiller, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil de tutelle, l'exécution des accords de tutelle pour toutes les régions qui ne sont pas désignées comme stratégiques;

élire les dix membres non permanents du Conseil de sécurité, les membres du Conseil de tutelle; prendre part avec le Conseil de tutelle à l'élection des juges de la Cour internationale de justice; sur la recommandation du Conseil de sécurité, nommer le secrétaire général; élire les cinquante-quatre membres du Conseil économique et social.

b) Le président et les vice-présidents

L'Assemblée générale est dirigée par le président, qui est élu au début de chaque session et qui assume ses fonctions jusqu'à la clôture. Les pouvoirs généraux du président consistent à prononcer l'ouverture et la clôture de chaque séance plénière de la session, diriger les discussions en séance plénière, assurer l'application du règlement, donner la parole, mettre les questions aux voix et proclamer les décisions.

c) Les pays membres du Commonwealth

Australie (1901)*, Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbade (1966), Botswana (1966), Canada (1867), Chypre (1961), Dominique, Fidji (1970), Gambie (1965), Ghana (1957), Grande-Bretagne, Grenade (1974), Guyane (1966), Inde (1947), Jamaïque (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malaisie (1957), Malawi (1964), Malte (1964), Maurice (1968), Nauru (1968)***, Nouvelle-Guinée (1960), Nouvelle-Zélande (1907), Ouganda (1962) Papouasie - Nouvelle-Guinée (1975), Samoa occidentales (1970), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapour (1965), Souaziland (1968), Sri Lanka (1948), Tanzanie (1961), Togo (1970), Trinité et Tobago (1962), Zambie (1964).

* Date d'admission

** Nauru possède le statut de membre associé.

d) Le Groupe des 77

Liste des pays connus sous le nom de "Groupe des 77", comprenant aussi les pays dont les gouvernements ont signé la "Déclaration commune des pays en voie de développement", à l'issue de la Première Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement, tenue à Genève en 1964. (A l'heure actuelle, 113 pays sont membres du "Groupe des 77" dont le nom tire son origine du fait que 77 gouvernements avaient signé la Déclaration.)

Afghanistan*, Algérie*, Angola, Arabie Saoudite*, Argentine*, Bahamas, Bahreïn, Bangladesh, Barbade, Bénin, Bhoutan, Birmanie*, Bolivie*, Botswana, Brésil*, Burundi*, Cameroun*, Cap-Vert, Chili*, Chypre*, Colombie*, Comores, Congo*, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypte*, El Salvador*, Emirats arabes unis, Empire centrafricain*, Equateur*, Ethiopie*, Fidji, Gabon*, Gambie, Ghana*, Grenade, Guatemala*, Guinée*, Guinée-Bissau, Guinée équatoriale, Guyane, Haïti*, Haute Volta*, Honduras*, Inde*, Indonésie*, Irak*, Iran*, Jamaïque*, Jordanie*, Kampuchea démocratique, Kenya*, Koweït*, Laos*, Lesotho, Liban*, Libéria*, Madagascar*, Malaisie*, Malawi, Maldives, Malte, Maroc*, Maurice, Mauritanie*, Mexique*, Mozambique, Népal*, Nicaragua*, Niger*, Nigeria*, OLP, Oman, Ouganda*, Pakistan*, Panama*, Papouasie, Nouvelle-Guinée, Paraguay*, Pérou*, Philippines*, Qatar, République arabe libyenne*, République arabe syrienne*, République de Corée*, République démocratique populaire du Yémen, République Dominicaine*, République-unie de Tanzanie*, Roumanie, Rwanda*, Samoa, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Sénégal*, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Singapour, Somalie*, Souaziland, Soudan*, Sri Lanka*, Tchad*, Thaïlande*, Togo*, Trinité et Tobago*, Tunisie*, Uruguay*, Venezuela*, Viet Nam (République socialiste du)*, Yémen*, Yougoslavie*, Zaïre, Zambie.

* Signataires originaires de la Déclaration.

3. L'organigramme de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

Amérique latine

Argentine	El Salvador	Nicaragua
Bahamas	Equateur	Panama
Barbade	Grenade	Paraguay
Bolivie	Guatemala	Pérou
Bresil	Guyane	République Dominicaine
Chili	Haiti	Surinam
Colombie	Honduras	Trinité et Tobago
Costa Rica	Jamaïque	Uruguay
Cuba	Mexique	Venezuela

b) Les pays non alignés

Voici la liste des pays qui ont participé à la Cinquième Conférence des chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement des pays non alignés qui a eu lieu à Colombo (Sri Lanka), en août 1976:

Afghanistan, Algérie, Angola, Arabie Saoudite, Argentine, Bangladesh, Bahreïn, Bhoutan, Birmanie, Burundi, Cameroun, Cap-vert, Chypre, Comores, Congo, Corée (République populaire démocratique), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Emirats arabes unis, Egypte, Empire centrafricain, Ethiopie, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée, Guinée équatoriale, Guinée-Bissau, Guyane, Inde, Indonésie, Irak, Haute-Volta, Jamaïque, Jordanie, Kampuchea démocratique, Kenya, Koweït, Laos, Lesotho, Liban, Libéria, Libye (république arabe de), Madagascar, Malaisie, Maldives, Mali, Malte, Maroc, Mauritanie, Maurice, Mozambique, Népal, Niger, Nigéria, Oman, OLP, Ouganda, Panama, Pérou, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Sénégal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapour, Somalie, Souaziland, Soudan, Sri Lanka, Syrie (République arabe de), Tanzanie, Tchad, Trinité et Tobago, Tunisie, Viet Nam (République socialiste du), Yémen (R.D.P.), Yémen (R.A.), Yougoslavie, Zaïre, Zambie.

Etaient présents à la Conférence en tant qu'observateurs:

Barbade, Bolivie, Brésil, Equateur, El Salvador, Grenade, Mexique, Uruguay, Venezuela, Afrique du Sud (Congrès national africain et Congrès panafricain d'Azanie), Namibie, Porto Rico (Parti socialiste de), Organisation des Nations Unies, OUA, Ligue arabe, Organisation de la solidarité des peuples afro-asiatiques, Conférence islamique, Conseil national africain de Zimbabwe.

Les pays suivants étaient présents en tant qu'invités:

Autriche, Finlande, Philippines, Portugal, Roumanie, Suède et Suisse.

La conférence a accordé un statut spécial à Belize incluant le droit de s'adresser aux délégués.

Europe de l'Est

Albanie
Bulgarie
Hongrie
Pologne
Afrique et Asie

Afrique

Afrique du Sud

Guinée-Bissau
Guinée équatoriale
Haute-Volta

République populaire
du Congo
République-Unité de
Cameroon

Kenya
Lesotho
Libéria

République-Unité de
Tanzanie
Rwanda

Madagascar
Malawi

Sao Tomé-et-Principe
Sénégal

Mali
Maroc

Seychelles
Serra Leone

Maurice
Mauritanie

Soudan
Soudan

Niger
Nigeria

Tchad
Togo

Ouganda

Tunisie
Zaire

Zambie

Asie

Afghanistan

Kampuchea démocratique

République démocra-

Arabie Saoudite
Bahrein

Koweït
Liban

République démocra-
tique du Yémen

Bangladesh
Bhoutan

Malaisie
Maldives

République populaire du
Laos

Biémanie
Chypre

Mongolie
Népal

République socialiste
du Viet Nam

Emirats arabes unis
Fidji

Oman
Pakistan

Samoa
Singapour

Inde
Indonésie

Papouasie - Nouvelle-
Guinée

Sri Lanka
Thaïlande

Irak
Iran

Philippines
Qatar

Yémen

Israël
Japon

République arabe
syrienne

Les observateurs

Le statut d'observateur n'est pas prévu dans la Charte des Nations Unies. Au cours des années, cependant, le Secrétaire général l'a accordé à des Etats non membres qui entretenaient quelque rapport avec l'Organisation, par exemple à titre de membre d'une institution spécialisée. Cinq pays ont actuellement une mission d'observation à New York: la Suisse, Monaco, le Saint-Siège, la République de Corée et la République démocratique de Corée.

Par des résolutions spéciales, l'Assemblée générale a également accordé le statut d'observateur à six associations de pays: L'OEA, la Ligue arabe, L'OUA, la CEE, le COMECON et la Conférence islamique. En 1974, elle a fait de même pour l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine. A la trente et unième session, elle a acquiescé à la demande du Secréariat du Commonwealth, qui était coparrainée par le Canada.

Le statut d'observateur a également été accordé à la Swapo (l'Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain).

2. Les regroupements d'Etats au sein des Nations Unies

a) Les groupes régionaux*

Les membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité

Chine	France	URSS
Etats-Unis	Royaume-Uni	

Europe de l'Ouest (et autres Etats)**

Australie	Grèce	Norvège
Autriche	Irlande	Pays-Bas
Belgique	Islande	Portugal
Canada	Italie	République fédérale
Danemark	Luxembourg	d'Allemagne
Espagne	Malte	Suède
Finlande	Nouvelle-Zélande	Turquie

* Ces regroupements officiels ont été établis pour répondre aux résolutions 1990 et 1991 de la 18e session de l'Assemblée générale.

** La France et le Royaume-Uni sont membres du "groupe des pays de l'Europe de l'Ouest; les Etats-Unis s'abstiennent. Cependant, ceux-ci et le Japon assistent à certaines réunions du groupe, en particulier aux réunions régionales des Deuxième et Cinquième Commissions. Lors de la tenue d'élection aux organes auxiliaires (économiques et sociaux surtout), les observateurs sont considérés comme faisant partie du groupe et occupent les sièges qui leur sont attribués.

Les Etats membres

Date
d'admission aux
Nations Unies

*République arabe syrienne	
République démocratique allemande	18/09/73
*République Dominicaine	
République fédérale d'Allemagne	18/09/73
*République socialiste soviétique de Biélorussie	
*République socialiste soviétique d'Ukraine	
République socialiste du Viet Nam	20/09/77

Les Etats membres

Date
d'admission aux
Nations Unies

Date

d'admission aux
Nations Unies

Irlande	14/12/55	*Philippines	14/12/55	Qatar	21/09/71	14/12/55
Israël	11/05/49	*Pologne	19/11/46			
Italie	14/12/55					
Jamaïque	18/09/62					
Japon	18/12/56	République arabe	14/12/55			
Jordanie	14/12/55	Libyenne	14/12/55			
Kampuchea démocratique	14/12/55	République-Union	14/12/55			
Kenya	16/12/63	République-Union	14/12/61			
Koweït	14/05/63	Roumanie	20/09/60			
Laos, République démocratique	14/12/55	*Royaume-Uni de	14/12/55			
Lesotho	17/10/66	d'Irlande-Bretagne et	18/09/62			
*Liban		Rwanda	15/12/76			
*Libéria						
*Luxembourg						
Madagascar	20/09/60	Sao Tomé-et-	16/09/75			
Malaisie	17/09/57	Sénégal	28/09/60			
Malawi	01/12/64	Seychelles	21/09/76			
Maldives	21/09/65	Sierra Leone	27/09/61			
Mali	28/09/60	Singapour	21/09/65			
Malte	01/12/64	Somalie	20/09/60			
Maroc	12/11/56	Soudan	24/09/68			
Maurice	24/04/68	Soudan	12/11/56			
Mauritanie	27/10/61	Sri Lanka	14/12/55			
*Mexique		Suède	19/11/46			
Mongolie	27/10/61	Surinam	04/12/75			
Mozambique	16/09/75	Tchad	20/09/60			
Népal	14/12/55	*Tchécoslovaquie	16/12/46			
*Nicaragua	20/09/60	Thaïlande	20/09/60			
Niger	07/10/60	Togo	18/09/62			
Nigeria	07/10/60	Trinité et Tobago	12/11/56			
*Norvège		Tunisie				
*Nouvelle-Zélande		*Turquie				
Oman	7/10/71	*URSS				
Ouganda	25/10/62	*Uruguay	15/11/45			
Pakistan	30/09/60	Venezuela	30/09/47			
*Panama		Yémen démocratique	14/12/67			
Papouasie - Nouvelle-		*Yugoslavie	20/09/60			
Guinée	10/10/75	Zaire	01/12/64			
*Paraguay		Zambie				
*Pays-Bas						
*Pérou						

L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Les Etats membres

L'Assemblée générale est composée des représentants des 149 Etats membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, chaque Etat ayant droit à cinq représentants.

Date	d'admission aux Nations Unies	Date	d'admission aux Nations Unies
20/09/77	*Danemark	19/11/46	Afghanistan
24/10/45	Egypte	14/12/55	*Afrique du Sud
09/12/71	El Salvador	08/10/62	Albanie
20/09/60	Empire centrafricain	14/12/55	Algérie
14/12/55	Espagne	01/12/76	*Arabie Saoudite
18/09/73	*Etats-Unis d'Amérique	14/12/55	*Argentine
21/09/71	*Ethiopie	17/09/74	*Australie
17/09/74	Fidji	18/09/73	Bahamas
13/10/70	Finlande	21/09/71	Bahreïn
14/12/55	*France	20/09/60	Bangladesh
20/09/60	Gabon	09/12/66	Barbade
21/09/65	Gambie	20/09/60	Belgique
08/03/57	Ghana	21/09/71	Bhoutan
17/09/74	Grenade	19/04/48	Birmanie
12/12/58	*Guatemala	17/10/66	*Bolivie
17/09/74	Guinée-Bissau	14/12/55	Botswana
12/11/68	Guinée	17/10/66	*Brésil
20/09/66	Guyane	18/09/62	Burundi
20/09/60	*Haïti	16/09/75	*Canada
14/12/55	Honduras	20/09/60	*Cap-Vert
28/09/50	Indonésie	12/11/75	*Chili
	*Irak	20/09/60	*Chine
	*Iran	20/09/60	*Colombie
		12/11/75	Comores
		20/09/60	*Costa Rica
		20/09/60	Côte d'Ivoire
		20/09/60	Cuba

* Membres originaires, c'est-à-dire les membres qui ont participé à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'organisation internationale, à San Francisco en 1945 ou qui avaient signé la "Déclaration des Nations Unies" du 1^{er} janvier 1942 et qui ont signé et ratifié la Charte, le 26 juin 1945.

Après deux mois de discussions à San Francisco lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Organisation internationale, les représentants de 50 pays, dont le Canada, ont signé la Charte des Nations Unies le 26 juin 1945. Le Canada avait joué un rôle des plus actifs au cours de la Conférence et bon nombre de propositions canadiennes ont été incorporées à la Charte, qui est entrée en vigueur le 24 octobre 1945.

Le Préambule de la Charte exprime les objectifs fondamentaux des 51 membres fondateurs et de ceux qui ont été admis aux Nations Unies depuis octobre 1945.

"Nous, peuples des Nations Unies, résolu

à préserver les générations futures du fléau de la guerre qui, deux fois en l'espace d'une vie humaine, a infligé à l'humanité d'indiscutables souffrances,

à proclamer à nouveau notre foi dans les droits fondamentaux de l'homme, dans la dignité et la valeur de la personne humaine, dans l'égalité de droits des hommes et des femmes, ainsi que des nations, grandes et petites,

à créer les conditions nécessaires au maintien de la justice et du respect des obligations nées des traités et autres sources du droit international,

à favoriser le progrès social et instaurer de meilleures conditions de vie dans une liberté plus grande,

Et à ces fins

à pratiquer la tolérance, à vivre en paix l'un avec l'autre dans un esprit de bon voisinage,

à unir nos forces pour maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationales,

à accepter des principes et instituer des méthodes garantissant qu'il ne sera fait usage de la force des armes, sauf dans l'intérêt commun,

à recourir aux institutions internationales pour favoriser le progrès économique et social de tous les peuples,

Avons décidé d'associer nos efforts pour réaliser ces desseins."

DEUXIÈME PARTIE ANNEXES

internationale sur la prise d'otages sur une bonne base et a bien entamé ses travaux lors de sa première session. Nous espérons qu'il pourra terminer ceux-ci à la session de 1978 et soumettre un projet de Convention à la trente-troisième Assemblée générale. Nous souhaitons que les Etats adoptent cette résolution à l'unanimité, manifestant ainsi la volonté de la communauté internationale de lutter de façon concrète contre la prise d'otages.

contribution qu'a apportée la République fédérale d'Allemagne aux travaux du Comité en présentant le projet de Convention qu'on retrouve dans le document A/AC.L88/L.3. A notre avis, ce projet offre une solide base à la discussion de tous les éléments essentiels à une coopération internationale efficace contre la prise d'otages. Mon gouvernement appuie en particulier la proposition contenue dans ce projet d'étendre comme il se doit la juridiction des tribunaux nationaux compétents au-delà de la juridiction territoriale habituelle. La notion de juridiction universelle, de même que les dispositions sur l'extradition et la poursuite en justice, visent évidemment à empêcher que les délinquants n'échappent au châtiment, quel que soit l'endroit où ils cherchent refuge.

Si le Comité spécial de la prise d'otages veut que ses travaux avancent avec la célérité qui s'impose étant donné la nature de la tâche qui lui est confiée, comme le souligne la résolution 31/103, il faut qu'il puisse se pencher sur des propositions de textes précis et concrets. Il sera également nécessaire d'étudier un certain nombre de questions laissées sans réponse lors de la dernière session du Comité.

L'une d'elle est la proposition faite par certaines délégations à la première session du Comité concernant l'application de la convention aux mouvements de libération nationale. Le Canada souscrit au principe de l'autodétermination des peuples conformément aux objectifs et aux principes de la Charte des Nations Unies. Cependant, le Canada n'appuie pas l'emploi de la violence en tant que moyen de régler les conflits et diffèrends politiques. A plus forte raison, mon gouvernement ne pourrait-il, en aucune circonstance, accepter que la prise d'otages, un acte universellement condamné, soit considérée comme un moyen d'action vers la réalisation de quelque objectif que ce soit, quelle qu'en soit la justification.

Une autre question soulevée par certaines délégations lors de la session du Comité est celle de la possibilité d'inclure dans la Convention une disposition sur la question de la prise d'otages commise par un Etat. Comme les actes des Etats sont régis par un certain nombre d'instruments internationaux déjà en vigueur, le Canada estime que l'étude de cette question au Comité spécial de la prise d'otages ferait double emploi avec des travaux déjà en cours aux Nations Unies et ailleurs. Il estime en outre que l'étude de cette question causerait au Comité d'insurmontables difficultés et le détournerait de sa tâche centrale, qui est de prévenir les actes de prise d'otages et de punir les individus qui s'en rendent coupables. Cette façon d'aborder le problème est conforme au cadre juridique établi par les Conventions de La Haye (1970), de Montréal (1971) et de New York (1973) et indispensable, à notre avis, au succès des travaux du Comité conformément au mandat défini dans la résolution 31/103.

Ma délégation partage la vive inquiétude que suscitent chez la communauté internationale la fréquence des actes de prise d'otages et la nécessité de mettre au point des mesures internationales efficaces pour y remédier. C'est pourquoi le Canada est heureux de coparrainer la résolution L.10 qui renouvelle le mandat du Comité spécial pour une année supplémentaire. Le Comité a entrepris sa tâche de rédaction d'une Convention

la sécurité dont font état l'article 3 de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et l'article 9 du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques. Tout comme les États ont cherché à protéger la personne et à maintenir l'ordre en se dotant chacun d'un système de droit criminel, de même la communauté internationale doit prendre des mesures pour prévenir et punir la prise d'otages par le biais de la coopération internationale.

Pour qui veut dégager les éléments essentiels d'une Convention sur la prise d'otages, les précédents juridiques internationaux ne manquent pas. Tant en Sixième Commission qu'au sein du Comité spécial de la prise d'otages, ma délégation a passé en revue les principes propres à soutenir une action internationale efficace. Un élément ressort clairement: qu'ils s'appliquent aux conflits armés ou à des situations qui se présentent en dehors d'un contexte de conflit armé, tous les instruments juridiques consultés interdisent formellement la prise d'otages, sans considération des motifs ou de l'identité des auteurs, ou encore de l'identité des victimes.

Cette interdiction se retrouve dans les Conventions de Genève de 1949 et dans les deux Protocoles additionnels à ses Conventions, adoptés en juin 1977 par la Conférence diplomatique sur la réaffirmation et le développement du droit humanitaire international applicable en période de conflits armés. Parmi les autres précédents juridiques internationaux pertinents à la question de la prise d'otages et qui prévoient également des interdictions semblables, nous citerons la résolution de l'Assemblée générale n° 2645 (XXX) du 25 novembre 1970 qui condamne sans aucune exception tout acte de détournement d'aéronefs ou d'autres ingérences dans les liaisons aériennes civiles et la résolution A/32/8 du 12 novembre 1977 qui reprend cette condamnation.

De la même façon, la notion voulant que tous les actes de cette nature soient condamnés et sanctionnés par des peines, quels que soient les motifs de leurs auteurs, est à la base de trois conventions internationales qui, de l'avis du Canada, constituent le fondement des travaux du Comité spécial de la prise d'otages. Ce sont la Convention de la Haye pour la répression de la capture illégale d'aéronefs (1970), la Convention de Montréal pour la répression d'actes illicites dirigés contre la sécurité de l'aviation civile (1971) et la Convention de New York sur la prévention et la répression des infractions contre les personnes jouissant d'une protection internationale, y compris les agents diplomatiques (1973). Ces Conventions reposent toutes trois sur un principe reconnu par de nombreux gouvernements dans toutes les régions du monde, le principe donnant à l'État le choix d'extrader le délinquant présumé ou de le poursuivre devant ses propres tribunaux. Du point de vue du Canada, la convention contre la prise d'otages devrait s'inspirer des précédents dont elle dispose sans perturber le cadre juridique établi et reconnu à l'échelle internationale ou faire double emploi avec lui.

Il ressort du rapport du Comité spécial de la prise d'otages que les questions essentielles y ont été discutées et que des progrès ont été réalisés dans l'élaboration d'une Convention internationale contre la prise d'otages. À ce propos, ma délégation tient à souligner l'importante

réfère le paragraphe 2 du projet de résolution, d'actions conjointes et séparées pour que les passagers, les équipages et les aéronefs des lignes civiles aériennes ne soient pas utilisés comme pièces de marchandage. La délégation du Canada, de concert avec d'autres délégations qui partagent ses vues, s'emploiera prioritairement à explorer toutes les avenues possibles pour une action efficace à cet égard.

Ma délégation aurait voulu que le libellé du paragraphe 4 du dispositif soit plus précis en ce qui a trait au suivi que l'OACI donnerait aux mesures adoptées par l'Assemblée. Nous croyons néanmoins que le langage de la résolution traduit la détermination des Etats membres des Nations Unies à poursuivre de façon urgente leurs efforts au sein de l'OACI pour garantir la sécurité du transport aérien et pour bloquer de façon décisive et efficace l'action des pirates aériens. Le Canada entend mener activement des consultations avec les autres délégations à l'Assemblée et au sein de l'OACI sur diverses mesures de suivi, y compris le renforcement de l'Annexe 17 de la Convention de Chicago relative à la sécurité matérielle des aéroports ainsi que d'autres mesures en vue d'une action conjointe entre Etats.

En sa qualité de coparrain du premier projet de résolution qui a servi de base à la présente résolution, le Canada est heureux que le projet de résolution L.4 ait été adopté par consensus. Il y voit un témoignage de la volonté internationale de combattre tous les actes d'ingérence illicite dans les liaisons aériennes civiles et pour assurer la sécurité du transport aérien international.

4.

L'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre la prise d'otages

Parmi les questions importantes débattues par la Commission juridique à la trente-deuxième session se compte celle de l'élaboration d'une Convention internationale contre la prise d'otages. L'inscription de cette question est le fruit d'une initiative de la République fédérale d'Allemagne qui avait abouti, à la trente et unième session de l'Assemblée générale, à l'adoption par consensus d'une résolution créant un comité spécial chargé d'élaborer la convention proposée. Le Comité spécial a entamé ses travaux en août 1977, sans pour autant arriver à élaborer un projet de convention à sa première session. Lors de sa trente-deuxième session, l'Assemblée générale, sur la recommandation de la Sixième Commission, a adopté une résolution par consensus renouvelant le mandat du Comité, qui se réunira à Genève en février 1978.

Le 5 décembre 1977, M. Philippe Kirsch, conseiller juridique à la mission permanente du Canada auprès des Nations Unies, a fait la déclaration suivante au sujet de la Convention:

Le gouvernement du Canada apporte son entier appui aux efforts internationaux visant à mettre un terme à la prise d'otages et à conclure, sous les auspices des Nations Unies, une Convention internationale contre de tels actes. La prise d'otages constitue une violation flagrante des droits fondamentaux de la personne, notamment le droit à la vie, à la liberté et à

pourquoi à la vingt-deuxième Assemblée de l'aviation civile internationale (OACI), tenue à Montréal du 13 septembre au 5 octobre 1977, la délégation du Canada a recommandé à la Commission juridique de prier le Secrétaire général de porter de nouveau à l'attention des Etats la résolution A 21-9 relative à la ratification rapide des conventions traitant des interventions illicites et de demander au Conseil d'étudier les moyens de rallier le plus large appui possible à ces conventions. Le Canada a noté avec satisfaction que ces recommandations ont reçu une approbation unanime au sein de la Commission juridique et s'attend qu'une étude détaillée soit menée à ce sujet dans un proche avenir.

Dans cette optique, nous appuyons l'appel lancé à tous les Etats qui ne sont pas encore parties à ces conventions afin qu'ils envisagent de les ratifier ou d'y adhérer dans les plus brefs délais. Cet appel, que nous retrouvons au paragraphe 3 du dispositif de la Résolution A/SPC/32/L.4 qui a été adoptée hier par consensus, a déjà été lancé par l'Assemblée générale dans les résolutions antérieures, non sans résultat comme je l'ai déjà indiqué. Le Canada espère que les Etats qui n'ont pas encore apposé leur signature à ces conventions accepteront de coopérer à tous les niveaux: international, régional et bilatéral.

Nous croyons que le projet de résolution L.4 assoit sur des bases valables les mesures éventuelles que pourront prendre les Etats membres. Le paragraphe 1 du dispositif réaffirme la condamnation dont l'Assemblée générale a déjà frappé les actes de piraterie aérienne. Cette condamnation s'étend à tous les actes de violence commis contre les passagers, les équipages et les aéronefs, quel qu'en soit le motif. En toute conscience, l'humanité ne peut tolérer de tels actes, pas plus que la piraterie en haute mer, l'esclavage et le génocide, peu importe le motif ou la cause invoquée.

Le paragraphe 2 du dispositif demande à tous les Etats de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la commission de tels actes. De toute évidence, il faut que les aéronefs ou les sociétés aériennes améliorent les mesures de sécurité et que les Etats échangent davantage de renseignements. Le Canada réaffirme son appui à des mesures nationales et internationales à cette fin. Il s'est d'ailleurs fait le promoteur de colloques régionaux sur la sécurité qui seraient organisés sous les auspices de l'OACI. De telles rencontres contribueraient à augmenter l'efficacité des mesures nationales de sécurité et favoriseraient une plus grande uniformité au sein des régions. A la vingt-deuxième Assemblée de l'OACI le mois dernier, le Canada a proposé que la résolution A 21-23, intitulée "Mesures techniques de protection du transport aérien civil international contre les actes d'intervention illicite" soit modifiée de façon que l'OACI puisse plus facilement organiser de tels colloques. Cette modification a été adoptée et devrait ouvrir la voie à des consultations techniques accrues au niveau régional.

Le Canada est convaincu qu'il y a place pour d'autres interventions nationales et internationales. J'en ai mentionné deux qu'il faut poursuivre activement: une acceptation plus large des conventions de Tokyo, de la Haye et de Montréal et la tenue d'un plus grand nombre de colloques sur la sécurité au niveau régional. Ma délégation croit également en la nécessité, que

Il est clair que le problème des attaques terroristes contre l'aviation civile est de dimension internationale et qu'il commande une réaction internationale vigoureuse et concertée. Ces gestes insensés et désespérés ne respectent aucune frontière et menacent les citoyens de tous les pays.

Dans l'élaboration de nouvelles mesures internationales pour supprimer la piraterie et autres actes illégaux qui menacent la sécurité de l'aviation civile, il importera de se rappeler qu'un cadre a déjà été mis en place pour permettre la coopération internationale dans ce domaine et qu'il nous faut bâtir sur ces fondations. A cet égard, la résolution 2645 (SSV) sur le détournement d'aéronefs ou l'ingérence dans les liaisons aériennes civiles, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale le 25 novembre 1970, condamne explicitement et sans aucune exception tous les actes de détournement d'aéronefs ainsi que le fait de profiter de la capture illégitime d'un aéronef pour prendre des otages. Cette position, qui fait de la piraterie aérienne un acte condamnable et punissable sans exception et sans égard au motif du responsable, a été inscrite dans diverses conventions importantes adoptées par les Nations Unies.

Je prends notamment pour exemple la Convention pour la répression pour la capture d'aéronefs adoptée à la Haye en 1970 et la Convention pour la répression d'actes illicites dirigés contre la sécurité de l'aviation civile adoptée à Montréal en 1971. On retrouve au coeur même des obligations juridiques créées par ces conventions le principe de la "poursuite ou de l'extradition". L'article 7 des deux conventions enjoint l'Etat sur le territoire duquel l'auteur présumé de l'une des infractions visées est découvert de traduire ce dernier devant les tribunaux ou de le remettre à un autre Etat ayant juridiction en vue de poursuites. L'objectif de ces conventions est de s'assurer que la personne qui commet un crime dans un pays et cherche refuge dans un autre ne pourra échapper à la justice. De surcroît, aux termes de l'article 2 de la Convention de la Haye et de l'article 3 de la Convention de Montréal, les Etats contractants s'engagent à punir de peines sévères les infractions en cause.

Les Conventions de la Haye et de Montréal, ainsi que la Convention relative aux infractions et à certains autres actes survenant à bord des aéronefs adoptée à Tokyo en 1963 ont reçu l'aval, dans toutes les régions du monde, de nombreux Etats pratiquant diverses doctrines politiques. Nous constatons que 88 pays ont maintenant adhéré à la Convention de Tokyo ou l'ont ratifiée, que 79 pays sont maintenant parties à la Convention de la Haye et que 75 pays sont maintenant parties à la Convention de Montréal ou l'ont ratifiée. Ces chiffres montrent qu'il existe une coopération grandissante au sein de la communauté internationale dans le but de veiller à ce que les coupables soient sévèrement punis. Il appelle d'ailleurs que d'autres pays, de toutes les régions du monde, ajoutent leur nom à la liste croissante des signataires de ces conventions. De plus en plus de membres de la communauté internationale ferment leur porte aux pirates aériens et ces derniers doivent dorénavant opérer dans un monde qui leur est de plus en plus hostile. L'application de ces accords présente cependant encore de sérieuses lacunes, qui peuvent encourager d'autres actes de piraterie aérienne. C'est

et elles devraient porter sur tout autre sujet pertinent. En participant à la revue, nous espérons veiller à ce que l'on tienne compte de ces aspects de l'établissement des traités.

Le traité multilatéral a été extrêmement utile à la communauté internationale au chapitre de l'élaboration et de la codification du droit international et, fait tout aussi important, il a permis de réconciliation internationale et d'établir un esprit de coopération internationale permettant de régler les affaires courantes des États. Nous devons mieux comprendre les méthodes et le processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux afin d'en retirer les plus grands avantages possibles. Le Canada appuie entièrement une revue approfondie et détaillée du processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux susceptible d'assurer que la codification de l'ensemble des pratiques internationales continue à contribuer au développement du droit international et au renforcement des liens entre les États.

3. La sécurité de l'aviation civile internationale

Parmi les faits saillants de la trente-deuxième Assemblée générale des Nations Unies se compte l'inscription à son ordre du jour de la question de la "Sécurité de l'aviation civile internationale", suite à une requête en ce sens de la Fédération internationale des associations de pilotes de ligne (IFALPA). L'Assemblée générale a référé la question à la Commission politique spéciale. Après de nombreuses consultations, celle-ci a adopté par consensus une résolution qui, en particulier, réitère la condamnation de tout acte de piraterie aérienne par l'Assemblée générale, demande aux États de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour prévenir de tels actes et de ratifier les conventions existantes, et demande à l'OACI d'entreprendre d'urgence des efforts plus soutenus pour assurer la sécurité des liaisons aériennes.

Le 2 novembre 1977, Mlle Coline Campbell, députée, représentante du Canada devant la Commission politique spéciale, a fait la déclaration suivante à ce sujet:

À l'instar d'autres États membres, le Canada considère que la "sécurité de l'aviation civile internationale" est une question importante qui requiert de toute urgence l'attention de l'Assemblée générale. Nous partageons l'inquiétude qui se manifeste au sein de la communauté internationale et de la Fédération internationale des associations de pilotes de ligne (IFALPA) devant la récente escalade des attaques brutales dont est victime l'aviation civile. Les événements tragiques des deux dernières semaines ont souligné la nécessité d'engager une action rapide pour prévenir et combattre de telles actions. Le Canada désire saisir cette occasion pour exprimer sa tristesse et son indignation par suite des deux récents détournements d'avions qui ont coûté la vie à d'innocentes victimes. Le Canada désire exprimer aux gouvernements de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et du Viet Nam ainsi qu'aux familles des victimes ses plus sincères condoléances.

institutions spécialisées telles l'Organisation internationale du travail et l'Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime fournissent des normes utiles en regard desquelles on peut évaluer d'autres activités de ce genre.

Il ne faut pas oublier qu'un bon nombre des préoccupations de nos gouvernements s'inscrivent dans le cadre plus vaste des problèmes économiques et politiques avec lesquels la communauté internationale se trouve aux prises et qui font déjà l'objet d'efforts d'élaboration et de codification. A notre avis, toute étude du processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux doit tenir compte de la nature de ce processus et de son incidence sur des domaines tels le commerce international, les investissements étrangers, la mise en valeur des ressources naturelles, l'énergie, les pratiques commerciales restrictives, les transports et la navigation commerciale, l'environnement et de nombreux autres domaines. La troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer représente un effort important pour légiférer dans ce domaine. Elle étudie une gamme sans précédent de questions très complexes et extrêmement importantes pour la communauté internationale. Les juristes internationaux se préoccupent du droit de la mer depuis des années et la Conférence a déjà exercé une forte influence sur le droit international et son application par les Etats. Toute revue du processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux peut utilement s'inspirer des méthodes et techniques adoptées dans ce domaine. Le représentant de Singapour a posé à cet égard un certain nombre de questions pertinentes auxquelles le Secrétaire général, je l'espère, répondra dans son étude.

A notre avis, l'examen entrepris et les tentatives en vue d'arriver à un accord sur la pratique internationale pourraient influencer considérablement le processus par lequel la communauté internationale établit les traités multilatéraux. Ainsi, nous espérons que le projet de rapport du Secrétaire général sur les méthodes et pratiques d'élaboration des traités multilatéraux sera de grande envergure et portera sur tous les aspects de l'établissement des traités, que ce soit au sein des Nations Unies, des institutions spécialisées, de la Commission du droit international ou d'autres institutions internationales. Nous saurons gré au Secrétaire général d'évaluer l'utilité et l'efficacité des diverses méthodes et de suggérer des améliorations que les Etats membres pourraient étudier par la suite. Nous espérons également que tous les gouvernements et organismes intéressés auront l'occasion de faire connaître leur opinion sur les méthodes et les moyens de favoriser le processus. Nous avons notamment pris note de la proposition d'étudier, au cours de l'élaboration du rapport ou après son examen, l'utilité de mettre au point un manuel ou un répertoire des usages recommandés afin d'aider les Etats membres des Nations Unies à choisir les méthodes les plus utiles d'établissement des traités multilatéraux. Voilà une conséquence secondaire éventuellement très utile qui, en dépit de sa portée modeste, pourrait à long terme aider à améliorer la qualité et le caractère des traités multilatéraux. Naturellement, elle ne doit pas réduire la souplesse du processus actuel qui permet à divers organismes de traiter différemment divers sujets. Ces consultations ne devraient pas s'effectuer uniquement au sein des Nations Unies ou ne porter que sur un aspect de l'établissement des traités; d'autres institutions intéressées devraient également y participer.

Au cours de notre examen des modalités d'établissement des traités multilatéraux, nous avons été très conscients de l'importance de ces instruments dans la conduite des relations internationales actuelles ainsi que de l'importance de la codification et du développement progressif du droit international. L'amélioration des méthodes et techniques de codification permettra sans doute de mettre au point des traités multilatéraux plus susceptibles de bénéficier d'un appui général et, partant, de renforcer le rôle du droit international dans la conduite ordonnée des affaires de la communauté internationale.

En appuyant la revue proposée du processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux par la communauté internationale, nous estimons qu'elle doit porter sur toutes les étapes du processus et déterminer dans quelle mesure une préparation inadéquate à l'une ou l'autre étape peut aboutir à l'échec au dernier palier, l'adhésion générale à un traité. L'élaboration d'un traité suppose la prise en considération d'un certain nombre de facteurs, notamment des lois internes des Etats, des décisions des tribunaux nationaux, des décisions judiciaires internationales et des traités bilatéraux ou multilatéraux existants sur le sujet en question. Dans le cas contraire, on risque de mettre au point un instrument inacceptable à la majorité des Etats. Si les facteurs dont il a été tenu compte aux étapes initiales reflètent fidèlement les politiques et les règles de la communauté internationale au regard d'un sujet particulier, le texte final soumis aux Etats reposera fermement sur l'expérience internationale et représentera une codification que l'on pourra réellement qualifier de développement progressif du droit international.

Cela ne veut pas dire que l'élaboration des traités multilatéraux puisse ou doive se limiter aux domaines dans lesquels la pratique, de par son acceptation, constitue déjà la coutume internationale. Il faut également aborder divers aspects de certaines questions choisies à l'égard desquelles il n'existe aucun précédent étatique et l'expérience internationale ne se rapporte pas directement à des principes du droit international. En élaborant les traités multilatéraux, il faut tenir compte de ces lacunes du droit international pour veiller à ce qu'ils soient complets et répondent aux besoins actuels. Cet aspect de l'établissement des traités multilatéraux fait également partie du développement progressif du droit international et ne devrait pas être rejeté du seul fait qu'il ne revêt pas un caractère purement juridique. A notre avis, pour être accepté par les Etats, un traité multilatéral doit tenir compte de la politique et du droit existant ainsi que des exigences des relations économiques et politiques entre les Etats.

En ce qui concerne l'envergure de la revue, nous sommes d'avis que cette dernière devrait porter en premier lieu sur les méthodes d'établissement des traités multilatéraux utilisées aux Nations Unies et sous leur égide. Nous sommes également d'avis que la revue n'apportera au processus les améliorations requises que si elle tient entièrement compte des méthodes employées par les institutions spécialisées et autres, au sein des Nations Unies et ailleurs. La Commission du droit international joue un rôle prépondérant dans l'établissement des traités. En outre, les usages établis des

général - a ouvert de nouvelles perspectives et proposé de nouvelles idées pour renforcer la structure et l'efficacité de l'Organisation. Nous avons noté que le Comité spécial a été en mesure d'achever, lors de sa dernière séance, la première lecture de l'étude. Il est maintenant en mesure d'entreprendre une nouvelle phase de ses travaux. Selon le Canada, il est essentiel que le Comité commence à cerner les propositions qui peuvent rallier le vaste appui des Etats membres et sur lesquelles il est possible d'ériger un consensus.

Nous croyons qu'il pourrait être utile d'étudier la possibilité d'offrir et de préciser les règles auxiliaires conçues à partir des principes de la charte sur l'établissement des faits et sur le règlement pacifique des différends internationaux.

Evidemment, le Comité devra éviter les positions inflexibles ou extrémistes qui font fi des intérêts fondamentaux de certains membres. Il ne faut pas affaiblir l'Organisation au moment même où nous essayons de la renforcer. A ce propos, le Canada regrette que le Comité n'ait pu terminer sur un consensus les travaux de la session de cette année. La tâche confiée au Comité est délicate et complexe. Elle exige une démarche graduelle et posée, allée à un esprit de bonne volonté et de compromis.

2. Le réexamen du processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux

Suite à une requête de l'Australie, l'Assemblée générale a inscrit cette année à son ordre du jour une nouvelle question visant à ce que soit entreprise une étude approfondie des méthodes d'établissement des traités multilatéraux. Sur la recommandation de la Sixième Commission, elle a adopté par consensus une résolution qui demande au Secrétaire général d'établir un rapport sur cette question, et aux gouvernements et à la Commission du droit international de présenter leurs observations. La question a été réinscrite à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale pour la 34e session.

Le 17 novembre 1977, M. Erik Wang, directeur des Opérations juridiques au ministère des Affaires extérieures, fit la déclaration suivante:

Le Canada a appuyé l'initiative de l'Australie et d'autres pays qui a abouti à l'inscription du point "Processus d'établissement des traités multilatéraux" à l'ordre du jour. Nous convenons de l'opportunité pour les Nations Unies d'examiner le processus par lequel la communauté internationale établit les traités multilatéraux et c'est avec plaisir que nous sommes inscrits sur la liste de ceux qui ont appuyé le projet de résolution dont nous sommes maintenant saisis. Nous espérons que les Etats membres qui participent aux travaux de cette Commission reconnaîtront les préoccupations de tous les gouvernements qui s'intéressent activement aux questions complexes afférentes à l'établissement des traités, et qu'ils reconnaîtront les mérites de la revue proposée.

original, définirait en détail les dispositions générales de la Charte. Il existe de nombreux cas d'accords secondaires compatibles de ce genre: dès 1946, par exemple, la Convention des Nations Unies sur les privilèges et immunités a précisé en 36 sections les dispositions des articles 104 et 105 de la Charte.

La pratique, l'évolution et l'interprétation constituent le quatrième moyen par lequel la Charte concilie les exigences contradictoires du progrès et de la stabilité. L'ONU s'est toujours occupée activement des grandes préoccupations des membres, comme la décolonisation et l'autodétermination, la promotion nécessaire au développement international ainsi que l'élimination de la discrimination raciale et de l'apartheid. Elle a concrètement favorisé la coopération internationale dans des secteurs précis que n'abordait pas la Charte, comme la protection de l'environnement, la coopération internationale pour l'utilisation pacifique de l'espace extra-atmosphérique et l'élaboration d'un régime juridique international pour les océans. L'absence de toute allusion au maintien de la paix dans la Charte n'a pas empêché les Nations Unies d'apporter des contributions importantes et durables au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. En effet, la longue expérience du Canada dans ce domaine a convaincu mon gouvernement que des mesures concrètes et pragmatiques peuvent être prises pour améliorer la capacité de l'Organisation de répondre aux besoins et défis de la communauté internationale sans, dans ce cas précis, devoir apporter une modification en règle.

D'après nous, il existe une gamme impressionnante de techniques et de modalités grâce auxquelles il est possible de mieux réaliser les desseins, les principes et les pratiques des Nations Unies. Je ne mentionnerai que quelques possibilités, comme l'élaboration d'un régime constitutionnel continu pour l'organisation et la mise en place d'organismes spécialisés à fins précises, domaines qui soulignent tous l'extraordinaire capacité de croissance dynamique des Nations Unies et sa faculté d'adaptation aux besoins changeants de la communauté internationale et à l'évolution de la situation mondiale. Si l'ONU n'a pas été à la hauteur de son potentiel, la cause n'est pas de nature juridique mais tient plutôt aux divergences fondamentales entre Etats sur la façon d'assumer leurs obligations et leurs responsabilités aux termes de la Charte.

La réforme de la Charte est un autre moyen d'améliorer l'efficacité des Nations Unies. A ce propos, je puis dire que le Canada est disposé à examiner soigneusement toutes les propositions précises de révision de la Charte qui rallient l'appui général des membres de l'Organisation et qui ne mettent pas en danger son cadre fondamental. Certaines parties de la Charte sont démodées; elles ne correspondent plus à la réalité. D'autres, par contre, ont subi avec succès le passage du temps.

Je voudrais maintenant revenir au rapport du Comité spécial et tout d'abord exprimer notre reconnaissance au distingué professeur Brown pour sa contribution aux travaux du Comité ainsi que pour la déclaration qu'il vient de faire. Ma délégation est d'avis que la méthode de travail adoptée par le Comité - un examen détaillé et méthodique de l'étude analytique du Secrétaire

F. QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES

Le rapport du Comité spécial de la Charte des Nations Unies et du raffermissement du rôle de l'Organisation

Rédigée en 1945, la Charte des Nations Unies a démontré sa souplesse et n'a subi que des modifications mineures, prévoyant notamment l'augmentation du nombre des membres du Conseil économique et social à la suite de l'élargissement de la composition de l'Organisation elle-même.

En 1975, l'Assemblée générale a créé le Comité spécial de la Charte des Nations Unies et du raffermissement du rôle de l'Organisation. Lors de ses deux premières sessions, en 1976 et 1977, le Comité a étudié le rapport analytique préparé par le Secrétaire général ainsi que les observations et les propositions faites par certains États.

Le 26 octobre 1977, le professeur R. St. J. Macdonald, représentant du Canada à la Sixième Commission, a fait la déclaration suivante:

Depuis la rédaction de la Charte des Nations Unies, il y a plus de trente ans, la communauté internationale a connu des transformations fondamentales et la composition de l'Organisation a presque triplé. Voilà pour quoi le gouvernement du Canada désire faire des Nations Unies un instrument de coopération internationale plus efficace et améliorer sa capacité d'assumer ses responsabilités.

Il y a, croyons-nous, plusieurs moyens d'améliorer l'efficacité de l'Organisation. Nous pouvons tout d'abord faire meilleur usage des mécanismes dont nous disposons. Certains articles de la Charte, virtuellement reliés aux oubliettes, gagneraient à être remis à jour. Ainsi, le Conseil de Sécurité pourrait se réunir plus souvent à l'échelon politique, comme le prévoit le paragraphe 2 de l'article 28.

Le deuxième moyen consiste à améliorer ses mécanismes. Un certain nombre de propositions novatrices se sont dégagées du Comité spécial de la reconstruction des secteurs économiques et sociaux du système des Nations Unies. Dans la majorité des cas, les changements envisagés ont pour but de donner plus d'effet aux dispositions existantes de la Charte, de renforcer les liens entre le Conseil économique et social et les institutions spécialisées et d'améliorer la coordination entre les activités opérationnelles aux échelons intergouvernementaux, du secrétariat et des pays. Certaines des propositions du Comité spécial exigeraient que l'on apporte des modifications à la Charte. En particulier, le Comité pourrait recommander que l'on songe à élargir la composition du Conseil économique et social pour compenser la disparition de l'un ou l'autre organisme auxiliaire et pour tenir compte de l'augmentation du nombre de membres depuis 1973.

Le troisième moyen d'améliorer le potentiel et les réalisations de l'Organisation est de passer des accords internationaux supplémentaires ou secondaires qui, tout en ne modifiant ni le fond ni le libellé du texte

n'a pas disposé de plus de temps pour l'étudier, étant donné que le rapport a été publié après le début de sa session d'été. Il ne fait aucun doute que les recommandations non conciliées et faisant double emploi sont la principale raison pour laquelle le rapport du CPN, au lieu de nous aider à établir le budget du programme, suscite une confusion inutile. La triste situation à laquelle nous assistons est symptomatique de l'ensemble de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Nous devons y mettre fin.

d'ailleurs foi la situation qui règne actuellement au Conseil économique et social. Le programme des conférences a maintenant atteint une expansion telle que les membres, et surtout ceux dont la capacité de participation est limitée, souhaiteraient y voir un peu plus d'ordre. Ma délégation est d'avis que, dans les rares cas où les recommandations du Comité des conférences diffèrent sensiblement de celles formulées par d'autres organismes, les principes approuvés, dont celui selon lequel les organismes doivent se réunir à leur siège respectif, devraient prévaloir jusqu'à ce qu'une étude approfondie démontre qu'un changement est justifié.

Utilisation et répartition des services de conférence

Ma délégation désirerait exprimer ici sa satisfaction face aux critères établis pour réduire les annulations ou l'introduction, à titre expérimental, du concept de surprogrammation pour limiter la sous-utilisation des ressources suite aux annulations. Ces critères établissent clairement la responsabilité de tenir les comités informés des faits pertinents à la tenue effective et efficace des réunions et conférences. Il est particulièrement important de pouvoir surprogrammer en 1978-1979, car une partie des installations prévues pour les conférences à New York ne seront pas disponibles en raison du programme de reconstruction qui doit débuter l'an prochain. L'expérience pourra montrer, pendant cette période, l'utilité de la nouvelle formule.

Surveillance de l'application des critères touchant l'établissement des comptes rendus de séances

Les critères élaborés par le Secrétariat et approuvés par l'Assemblée générale il y a deux ans ont produit un impact appréciable, même s'ils n'ont pas eu la portée qu'on espérait. On devrait néanmoins poursuivre et accroître les efforts visant à rationaliser les services de documentation de manière à inclure la production et la distribution de tous les documents depuis leur rédaction par les départements intéressés au premier chef jusqu'à leur diffusion auprès de leurs utilisateurs. Les difficultés que connaissent les États membres en ce qui a trait à la documentation sont nombreuses et variées. Le contrôle, une surveillance étroite et les techniques modernes de traitement des mots peuvent graduellement contribuer à la prestation de meilleurs services aux États membres, comme ce fut le cas dans d'autres secteurs. Si les activités du Comité des conférences doivent se poursuivre, la documentation devrait être incorporée à son mandat.

J'espère que, l'an prochain, elle se fixera comme un de ses objectifs initiaux d'établir une méthode de contrôle simple pour veiller à ce que les rapports soient remis en temps opportun pour éviter que se reproduise une situation analogue à celle où il lui a fallu remettre les réunions du CPN. Rappelons à cet égard que la Division du budget a reçu les premières prévisions des départements responsables plus de trois mois après l'échéance et que les prévisions approximatives ont continué de lui parvenir presque jusqu'au moment où le CPN a commencé ses réunions à la fin de mai. Par conséquent, le rapport du CPC a été publié trop tard pour que le CCQAB puisse en tenir compte dans ses travaux sur le budget. Le Conseil économique et social

Permettez-moi maintenant de me pencher sur les nombreux autres sujets soulevés dans le rapport du Comité.

Dérogations apportées entre les sessions au calendrier

Depuis le tout début de ses travaux, la discussion et l'approbation des modifications intersectorielles au calendrier des conférences a demandé une attention particulière de la part du comité et des discussions importantes en ont découlé. Les Etats membres ont vu dans cet organisme l'instrument approprié d'importantes décisions politiques qu'il aurait été difficile, voire impossible d'adopter sans lui. Ainsi, cette année, l'étude des arrangements en vue de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'établissement de l'ONUUDI en institution spécialisée a été à la fois opportune et fructueuse. D'autre part, malgré l'importante incidence financière des dérogations intersectorielles approuvées par le Comité, aucun crédit supplémentaire n'avait été sollicité au moment de l'adoption du rapport. Les données financières figurent à l'Appendice VI du rapport du Comité, aux pages 125 et 126. L'analyse et la détermination de l'incidence financière d'une dérogation au calendrier ont suscité certains problèmes. A l'avenir, le Secréariat devra fournir à cette fin une ventilation normalisée des coûts afférents aux décisions du Comité, ce qui permettra une analyse plus poussée du facteur "coût". Par ailleurs, le Comité ne s'est pas encore penché sur l'économie réalisée du fait d'une annulation ou d'un report de réunion. L'expérience a montré que les renseignements d'ordre financier fournis par le Secréariat aux différents utilisateurs comme le CCQAB ne servent pas forcément les buts du Comité des conférences. Il importe en outre de se pencher non seulement sur les frais ou les économies afférents aux conférences proprement dites, mais aussi sur les autres dépenses ou économies réalisées en raison d'une dérogation. Il faudra examiner toute cette question plus en détail.

Calendrier des conférences

L'étude du calendrier des conférences pour 1978-1979 a de nouveau suscité des discussions au sujet du lieu de la réunion du Sous-comité juridique du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Dans ce contexte, les données financières fournies, malgré leur précision, ont porté une dérogation à croire que les conclusions tirées dans le rapport étaient trompeuses. Les divergences de vue entre le Comité des conférences et le Comité de l'espace extra-atmosphérique sont peut-être dues en partie à l'information préalablement fournie lors du processus décisionnel. L'expérience montre que le Comité peut contribuer à éclaircir certaines questions complexes relatives aux conférences, c'est d'ailleurs là l'une des principales raisons pour laquelle une délégation souhaiterait que l'Assemblée générale adopte une résolution, semblable à celle prise par le Conseil économique et social cet été, qui veillerait à ce que les conseils du Comité des conférences aient une incidence privilégiée sur les décisions visant à modifier le plan des conférences adopté par l'Assemblée. Les décisions prises dans l'optique limitée des organes subsidiaires spécialisés se sont trop souvent révélées contraires à l'intérêt plus général des Etats membres, comme en fait

générale a formé, à titre expérimental et pour une période de trois ans, un comité composé de 22 États membres, spécialement chargé de rapporter à l'Assemblée générale le calendrier annuel des conférences, des recommandations quant au meilleur usage des ressources et les moyens propres à améliorer la coordination des conférences. Cependant, la partie la plus importante de son mandat consistait à décider, entre les sessions au nom de l'Assemblée générale, de la suite à donner aux demandes de dérogation au calendrier des conférences.

Cette année, le Comité des conférences a présenté son rapport, son mandat arrivant à terme. Le Canada a coparrainé une résolution, adoptée ultérieurement, établissant le Comité des conférences sur une base permanente. À la Cinquième Commission, le 2 novembre 1977, M. Claude-André Lachance, député et représentant du Canada reconnaissait le bilan positif du Comité et exposait la position du Canada sur le calendrier des conférences et les dérogations qui y sont apportées, l'utilisation et la répartition des services de conférences, ainsi que la surveillance de l'application des critères touchant l'établissement des comptes rendus de séances.

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La délégation du Canada a pris connaissance du 3^e rapport du Comité des conférences (A/32/32) relativement au travail effectué durant la dernière année de son mandat. Elle en a étudié les implications avec intérêt à la lumière des explications fournies par le distingué Président du comité durant son allocution d'ouverture, lors de la 25^e réunion de cette commission mardi après-midi.

En tout premier lieu je tiens, au nom de la délégation, à affirmer que nous partageons sans réserves les vues du Président sur l'utilité manifeste du Comité des conférences.

Le rendement s'est accru progressivement depuis sa création, ses membres et son personnel apprenant à traiter, à l'intérieur d'un cadre intergouvernemental, des problèmes complexes que pose le programme des conférences et des réunions au sein de l'organisation. Il ne reste plus au Comité qu'à atteindre sa vitesse de croisière.

En tout état de cause et malgré certaines lacunes le Comité, sous la direction éclairée de son président M. Okeyo et de son prédécesseur M. Thomas, nous présente aujourd'hui un bilan positif d'autant plus qu'il nous laisse espérer pour l'avenir une plus grande efficacité et souplesse dans ses efforts pour répondre, en polissant le programme des conférences, aux besoins des États membres. Ce qui précède nous incite donc à envisager positivement la poursuite du travail du Comité et partant, son existence, tout en espérant que son mandat soit revu par l'Assemblée générale.

Le projet de résolution incorporé au rapport en annexe XI reçoit donc notre approbation dans sa forme présentée et c'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation a accepté de coparrainer la résolution A/C.5/32/L.12 laquelle reprend le texte du projet de résolution de l'annexe XI.

certaines quotes-parts sont neutralisées par des réductions inadéquates d'autres quotes-parts. Le Comité s'est servi de la période de référence de 7 ans pour effectuer sa présente révision du barème. Ma délégation considère que cette façon de faire ne constitue pas un précédent pour les futurs barèmes. Toutefois, puisque le Comité a décidé d'adopter la période de référence de 7 ans pour le barème de 1978-1979, il sera fort difficile de revenir à une base de 3 ans par la suite sans qu'il n'en résulte des ajustements majeurs vers le haut. Pour des raisons de continuité, on pourrait envisager le maintien de la même base statistique d'une période à l'autre.

En ce qui concerne le nouveau barème recommandé par le Comité, ma délégation souscrit à l'idée d'une quote-part de deux ans. Nous sommes également en faveur d'une nouvelle étude de la formule des indemnités pour les pays à faibles revenus par habitant. Cependant, tout changement de cette formule doit contribuer à renforcer le rôle de la capacité de paiement en tant que critère ultime de détermination du barème. Cela veut dire qu'il faut proposer un mécanisme qui réduira graduellement l'importance relative qu'on accorde aux indemnités spéciales, afin d'éviter une pondération arbitraire et renforcer l'acceptabilité du barème.

Le Comité fait état des mesures qu'il a prises pour sauvegarder son statut d'organe subsidiaire responsable uniquement à l'Assemblée générale. Il s'agit là d'une importante question et ma délégation est d'avis que ces mesures et d'autres encore sont indiquées pour éviter de créer des situations controversées. La méthode à utiliser pour présenter au Comité les statistiques et l'information nécessaires à ses délibérations doit être la même pour tous les Etats membres. Ma délégation a étudié avec intérêt chacune des options exprimées dans le rapport du Comité des contributions. Il est d'ailleurs inquiet de constater que le Comité n'a pu parvenir à un consensus sur le nouveau barème. Cet état de choses illustre la nécessité d'une stricte observance des directives de l'Assemblée, en particulier du critère fondamental de la capacité de paiement. Le débat en Cinquième Commission l'an dernier et le rapport que nous étudions aujourd'hui démontrent que lorsqu'on déroge aux critères établis, on est plus susceptible de porter préjudice au barème que de le rendre plus acceptable. Ma délégation est disposée à appuyer le barème recommandé pour 1978-1979. Le Comité des Contributions doit s'abstenir de fixer des quotes-parts qui ne sont pas conformes aux critères approuvés.

Nous prions instamment toutes les délégations d'accepter le barème proposé dans l'intérêt de notre organisation. La remise en question continue des barèmes basés sur les intérêts nationaux à court terme ne peut qu'amener d'autres Etats à suivre cette pratique, mettant en jeu la viabilité de l'organisation.

Le Comité des conférences

2.

Les conférences constituent une activité majeure de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, drainant une part importante des crédits affectés au budget de celle-ci. En 1974, suite à une initiative du Canada, l'Assemblée

Ma délégation prend acte de l'incompatibilité qui persiste entre les statistiques internationales. L'amélioration de la qualité et de la portée du calcul du revenu national est certes la bienvenue, sans compter que la grande majorité des Etats membres fournissent des données dont la conception et le contenu sont compatibles, ce qui permet de répartir les dépenses plus équitablement. Certains pays, malgré leurs réserves à l'endroit du système de comptabilité nationale (SCN), fournissent quand même des données par les biais de ce système. En calculant le revenu national à l'aide des statistiques du système de comptabilité du produit matériel (CPM), comme le font les pays à économie planifiée, on arrive à un résultat proportionnellement inférieur, ce qui aboutit à une injustice lorsque l'on utilise pour déterminer la quote-part. Le Comité des contributions a constaté des améliorations au chapitre de la comptabilité entre les statistiques du SCN et du CPM. Nous appuyons les efforts du Comité afin de réaliser une parfaite compatibilité entre les deux systèmes. Il pourrait être utile d'obtenir des renseignements à une date ultérieure.

Il y a un autre problème qu'il faudra affronter un jour. Il s'agit de la conversion des devises nationales en une unité monétaire composite afin d'obvier aux difficultés que pose la fluctuation des taux de change. Le Comité des contributions a fait allusion aux caractéristiques précises mais non listées des devises des pays à économie planifiée et il serait peut-être bon que les Etats membres aient davantage d'éclaircissements à ce sujet, de sorte qu'ils soient conscients de leur importance pour les quotes-parts. Ma délégation voudrait encourager le Comité à progresser dans ses études sur ce secteur, puisque, de toute évidence, la méthodologie actuelle laisse à désirer.

Dans la partie du rapport consacrée aux facteurs de pondération, on traite d'importants principes qui, l'an dernier, ont donné lieu entre les Etats membres, à des divergences qu'il faut considérer à la lumière de l'objectif essentiel du barème qui est d'assurer l'intégrité financière et la viabilité de l'organisation. L'étude soignée et détaillée du Comité révèle que la pondération a des limites si l'on veut conserver au principe de la capacité de paiement l'importance primordiale désirée. Nous prenons acte qu'il a été impossible de mettre au point un système de pondération proportionnelle ou absolue des augmentations ou des diminutions excessives des quotes-parts qui soit pratique et applicable directement et universellement parce que ces mesures constitueraient une dérogation capitale au principe de la capacité de paiement.

On applique depuis 1953 la méthode consistant à prolonger la période de référence pour réduire les effets de fluctuations à court terme. Comme l'a démontré le Comité et comme l'ont reconnu les Etats membres, cette méthode de référence pour réduire les effets de fluctuations à court terme a de ses lacunes. Les divergences au sein du Comité quant à l'acceptation d'une période de référence de sept ans soulignent les difficultés à surmonter.

Ma délégation n'est pas convaincue de la désirabilité de protéger les quotes-parts contre d'importantes variations dans la capacité de paiement. Les principaux avantages qu'une longue période de référence confère à

L'importance du barème tient au fait qu'il sert de base à la répartition des dépenses non seulement à l'ONU mais aussi à de nombreuses autres organisations. Les membres de la Cinquième Commission savent que la majorité des institutions spécialisées utilisent le barème de l'ONU. Ce que l'on sait moins, c'est qu'un grand nombre d'autres organisations intergouvernementales empruntent ce même barème. Même si leur composition diffère de celle de l'ONU, elles ont constaté qu'il permet de répartir proportionnellement les contributions. Il serait intéressant de connaître toutes les organisations qui utilisent le barème de l'ONU et de faire la somme des ressources ainsi réparties.

Le présent rapport du Comité des contributions, ainsi que ceux qui l'ont précédé, analysent les aspects conceptuels, méthodologiques et statistiques rencontrés lors de la fixation des barèmes. A ce jour, nous n'avons pas réussi à introduire de nouveaux indicateurs statistiques qui seraient susceptibles d'améliorer quantitativement et qualitativement l'évaluation de la capacité de paiement de chaque pays. A cet égard, il n'apparaît pas souhaitable de ne faire qu'une utilisation partielle des nouveaux indicateurs dont certains pays disposent. C'est pourquoi ma délégation entérine la conclusion du Comité et regrette qu'il ne soit pas encore possible d'améliorer la fiabilité du revenu national en tant que mesure de la richesse nationale. Toutefois, nous serions heureux de nous associer à toute initiative qui permettrait l'élaboration de statistiques universelles exprimant la richesse nationale.

Le Comité des contributions a souligné que les fluctuations du cours des importations et des exportations sont l'un des facteurs déterminants du revenu national. Elles sont donc automatiquement prises en considération chaque fois que l'on compile des statistiques sur le revenu national. Si l'on faisait des ajustements sélectifs pour certaines quotes-parts en fonction de la fluctuation des cours, cela reviendrait à faire double emploi du même facteur, ce qui serait injuste. Pour cette raison, ce facteur ne devrait pas être utilisé seul lorsque l'on fixe chacune des quotes-parts. Cependant, en dernière analyse, le Comité des contributions pourra estimer qu'en certaines circonstances une exception est justifiée. Ma délégation voudrait aussi savoir si le Comité a utilisé les prix pour ajuster les quotes-parts. En outre, nous ne sommes pas convaincus de l'opportunité de faire des exportations de ressources naturelles non renouvelables un facteur de pondération. A long terme, le revenu national est déterminé lui aussi par la consommation nationale des ressources non renouvelables.

Il n'est pas étonnant que le Comité des contributions ait été incapable de trouver des méthodes pour indexer les revenus nationaux sur l'inflation et les fluctuations du taux de change. S'il le désire, le comité pourra, à l'occasion d'une des sessions de l'Assemblée générale, nous fournir un relevé détaillé des obstacles rencontrés lors de la définition des données en prix constants et nous donner une idée de la possibilité de supprimer ces obstacles dans les années à venir. Il ne fait pas de doute qu'une meilleure compréhension de la question des prix constants contribuera à faire accepter le barème recommandé.

E. QUESTIONS ADMINISTRATIVES ET BUDGÉTAIRES

1. Le barème des quotes-parts

Le barème des quotes-parts est un point important de l'ordre du jour des délibérations de la Cinquième Commission (questions administratives et budgétaires). Le barème lui-même est recommandé par le Comité des contributions, mais il doit finalement être adopté par voie de scrutin. Tous les États membres participent au vote qui a lieu d'abord à la Cinquième Commission et ensuite en plénière. Le barème attribue à chaque État membre une part des dépenses de l'Organisation suivant une formule complexe où plusieurs critères entrent en jeu, le principal étant la capacité de paiement mesurée par le revenu national. Bien qu'il ait fait l'objet d'études approfondies et de nombreuses discussions par le passé, le barème des quotes-parts recommandé par le Comité des contributions a toujours été accepté de façon à servir au mieux les intérêts de l'Organisation.

Ces dernières années, l'instabilité économique et les perturbations monétaires internationales ont ajouté à la complexité de l'établissement d'un barème, tâche déjà rendue difficile par l'épineux problème concernant la disponibilité et la difficulté de comparer les statistiques nationales. Les pays dont le revenu national a subi de fortes augmentations, en particulier ceux bénéficiant des recettes de l'exportation pétrolière, ont exercé des demandes afin de minimiser la hausse de leurs contributions. Pour satisfaire en partie cette exigence, la période de référence pour l'établissement des barèmes des quotes-parts fut portée à sept ans. Ainsi, 85 États ont vu leurs contributions décroître, le seul minimal de contribution étant également porté de 0.02 à 0.01 p. cent du budget de l'Organisation. La contribution du Canada passe de 2.96 à 3.04 p. cent, et il se retrouve au neuvième rang des contributeurs par ordre d'importance. Le barème des quotes-parts pour la période biennale 1978-1979 a été adopté par 90 voix en faveur, 2 contre et 12 abstentions.

Le Canada a appuyé le rapport du Comité des contributions, estimant que ses membres ont mené à bien une tâche difficile, compte tenu des opinions exprimées au sein de la Cinquième Commission à sa trente et unième session. M. Claude-André Lachance, député et représentant du Canada à la Cinquième Commission, dans une déclaration faite le 24 octobre 1976, exposait la position du Canada en ces termes:

C'est une tâche exceptionnellement difficile que l'Assemblée générale a assignée au Comité des contributions l'année dernière. Le barème des quotes-parts que le Comité a élaboré cette année et recommandé pour les années 1978-1979 est une réalisation qui mérite d'être soulignée. Son rapport est exhaustif, poussé et lucide. Il renferme une mine de renseignements et une analyse soignée qui permettent de cerner avec réalisme les questions qu'il a été chargé d'étudier et de traiter. Le rapport démontre une fois de plus l'importance de ses travaux ainsi que la compétence de ses membres, sous la direction de son distingué président, l'ambassadeur Ali, et de ses collègues.

Bien que ces dépenses soient assumées par les ministères et organismes canadiens participant au rétablissement des réfugiés, nous les considérons comme une contribution indirecte aux activités courantes valables du HCR.

Mon troisième point est essentiel pour l'avenir du HCR et concerne le financement de son programme ordinaire ainsi que les souscriptions spéciales. D'après le compte rendu de la réunion du Comité exécutif tenue à Genève en octobre et le rapport du Haut-Commissaire, les coûts prévus pour le programme général du HCR en 1978 s'accroîtront de façon inquiétante par rapport à ceux de 1977. Voilà des perspectives qui franchement nous inquiètent et ce, pour deux raisons: d'abord, elles reflètent de graves perturbations planétaires par le nombre tragique des réfugiés et personnes déplacées en cause et, deuxièmement, elles indiquent que le manque de coopération financière au sein de la communauté internationale obligera le Haut-Commissaire à réaménager les objectifs de son projet de programme; le cas échéant, je n'ai pas à préciser quelles en seraient les premières victimes.

Etant donné l'appui que le Canada accorde à tous les aspects des activités du HCR, le Haut-Commissaire peut être assuré de la compréhension et de la collaboration de mon gouvernement qui s'efforcera de l'aider dans toute la mesure du possible. Nous espérons ardemment, toutefois, qu'un plus grand nombre de gouvernements partageront le fardeau de l'aide à nos frères en détresse de par le monde.

En terminant, j'aimerais dire que nous étions très surpris d'ap-prendre cette semaine, et avec grand regret, la démission de Son Excellence le prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. Sa contribution dans la communauté mondiale comme Haut-Commissaire pour les réfugiés a été énorme. Il a accompli une tâche vraiment difficile dans laquelle on remarquera son absence.

doivent toutefois reconnaître que les réfugiés et les personnes déplacées nécessitent une aide humanitaire immédiate. Il serait cruel et inhumain de refuser froidement d'admettre que cette situation tragique persiste, d'affirmer que pareille chose ne nous regarde pas ou de se constituer du capital politique aux dépens des personnes qui subissent des événements sur lesquels elles n'ont aucun contrôle. Le problème exige certainement des efforts immédiats et parallèles de la part de tous les membres de la famille des Nations Unies - un effort pour fournir une aide à ces malheureux et un effort des gouvernements pour identifier lucidement et éliminer les causes des souffrances et des déchirements humains.

Afin d'aider le HCR, le gouvernement du Canada a pris plusieurs mesures importantes depuis la dernière assemblée générale de l'ONU. Premièrement, la nouvelle loi sur l'immigration votée par le parlement du Canada le 25 juillet 1977 reflète l'esprit et la lettre des conventions internationales relatives au statut des réfugiés et au droit humanitaire auxquelles le Canada est partie, et également l'expérience pratique acquise dans le rétablissement de plus de 350,000 réfugiés et personnes déplacées depuis 1945. Les dispositions de la nouvelle loi canadienne sur l'immigration relatives aux réfugiés visent à traduire concrètement l'engagement du Canada au regard des principes sous-jacents à la Convention des Nations Unies relative au statut des réfugiés. En vertu de cette loi, la définition du réfugié adoptée par les Nations Unies, servira à la sélection des réfugiés à l'étranger ainsi qu'à leur identification et à leur protection au Canada. Cette loi comporte également des dispositions qui permettront au Canada d'assumer d'autres formes d'aide humanitaire sur son territoire et à l'étranger.

Deuxièmement, en ce qui concerne plus particulièrement le rétablissement de réfugiés en 1976-1977, le Canada a admis 1,014 réfugiés de toutes les parties du monde aux termes de la Convention et, dans les sept premiers mois de 1977, 617 d'entre eux se sont établis au Canada. Durant la même période, nous avons connu deux vagues spéciales de réfugiés: l'une en provenance de l'Amérique latine et l'autre de l'Asie du Sud-Est. En juillet 1977, 5,305 Latino-américains s'étaient réfugiés au Canada et nous avons pour politique officielle de laisser croître ce nombre jusqu'à 6,000 ou 7,000.

Entre janvier et août 1977, le Canada a reçu 196 de ces réfugiés indo-chinois que l'on appelle communément les habitants des sampans. Cela porte à 492 le nombre de "personnes venues à bord d'embarcations légères" et à 6,796 le nombre total des réfugiés indo-chinois admis depuis 1975. En août, il a été décidé d'accueillir 450 nouveaux réfugiés indo-chinois.

Le rétablissement de ces réfugiés latino-américains et indo-chinois a nécessité des dépenses considérables. Si l'on exclut les frais d'exploitation, le Canada a consacré \$2,710,000 à la relocation des réfugiés latino-américains et \$4,696,000 à celle des réfugiés indo-chinois depuis le début de ces deux vagues spéciales.

Chers collègues, les handicapés ont un rôle important à jouer dans l'évolution du monde et dans la recherche de son équilibre. On nous lance le défi de tracer le cadre qui leur permettra d'apporter leur contribution.

Le rapport du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, créé en 1950 par l'Assemblée générale, a pour tâche de soulager les souffrances immédiates des réfugiés et de chercher des solutions à long terme à leurs problèmes. Chaque année, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil économique et social, le Haut-Commissariat fait rapport à l'Assemblée générale, laquelle renouvelle périodiquement son mandat. Depuis toujours, le Canada appuie fermement les travaux du Haut-Commissariat. Ainsi, en 1978, la contribution du Canada au programme ordinaire du Haut-Commissariat a augmenté d'un million de dollars. Dans une déclaration faite le 15 novembre 1977, M. l'ambassadeur W.H. Barton a exprimé les vues du gouvernement du Canada et a félicité le Haut-Commissariat, le prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, qui avait remis sa démission au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

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Ma délégation voudrait d'abord remercier le Haut-Commissariat pour le rapport détaillé qu'il nous a fourni sur les activités de son commissariat depuis la dernière étude effectuée par cette Commission à ce sujet.

L'an dernier, pour une multitude de raisons, les perturbations socio-politiques qu'a connues le monde se sont trop souvent accompagnées de conflits armés. Le problème des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées s'en est trouvé accru et il nous faut reconnaître en toute honnêteté qu'on ne peut entrevoir de solution ni même d'atténuation de ce problème tragique dans l'avenir prévisible. Les rapports et données du Haut-Commissariat mettent en relief la gravité du problème ainsi que l'escalade du coût de la protection, des secours d'urgence et de l'assistance accordés à des millions de malheureux de par le monde.

La simple énumération de faits et de chiffres ne doit jamais nous faire oublier les hommes qui réclament notre sympathie et notre aide, surtout par l'intermédiaire du Haut-Commissariat. Bien que leur appel touche les coeurs de ceux qui veulent bien entendre, il est déplorable que trop peu de pays écoutent et s'efforcent de combler les besoins des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées, et encore moins de prévoir une aide adéquate pour ceux qui viendront hélas grossir les rangs des infortunés dans les prochains mois.

Puisqu'un nombre relativement restreint de gouvernements assument une part disproportionnée de ce fardeau financier, nous ne voyons aucune solution à cette grave crise financière tant que ne s'élargira pas la coopération internationale à ce titre. Nous savons que le Haut-Commissariat et son personnel compétent ont intensifié leurs efforts dans ce sens; qu'elles que soient les raisons politiques en jeu, un plus grand nombre de gouvernements

La déclaration qui suit a été faite, le mercredi 12 décembre 1977 devant la Troisième Commission, par M. Walter C. Dinsdale, député (P.C.).

Nous sommes saisis d'une résolution portant création d'un Comité consultatif de spécialistes qui entreprendra la préparation de l'Année des handicapés qui aura lieu en 1981. Nous nous réjouissons des travaux de l'ONU dans ce domaine et nous l'encourageons à poursuivre les activités entreprises. Mon pays attache beaucoup d'importance à l'Année des handicapés et, à titre de coparrain de la résolution, nous prions instamment la Commission de lui accorder son appui unanime. Quant à nous, nous voudrions que la première tâche du Comité soit de sensibiliser le public aux handicapés et aux conditions qu'ils doivent affronter. Trop longtemps les handicapés ont été perçus par la communauté internationale comme un problème que le temps devait résoudre. Certes, les progrès dans le domaine des appareils prothétiques et orthétiques ont beaucoup fait pour aider les handicapés à s'intégrer à la collectivité, mais il reste beaucoup de travail à accomplir et nous incitons le comité à se pencher plus particulièrement sur l'élimination des barrières architecturales, sur l'amélioration des moyens de transport et des prothèses et sur l'accroissement des possibilités d'emploi.

En outre, nous osons espérer que le comité continuera à se tenir en liaison étroite avec les divers organismes non gouvernementaux internationaux comme la Société internationale pour la réadaptation des handicapés qui se dévoue pour améliorer leur sort. De plus, nous serions heureux si le comité oeuvrait de près avec chacun des gouvernements, de la même façon que nous les encourageons à travailler de près avec le comité et à prendre les mesures nécessaires sur le plan national et régional. De même, nous prions instamment le comité de prendre acte des excellents travaux accomplis jusqu'ici par les Nations Unies et, notamment, par le Centre pour le développement social et les affaires humanitaires et à les encourager à poursuivre leurs efforts. Précisons que les gouvernements provinciaux du Canada ont déjà fait preuve d'initiative et qu'en collaboration avec le gouvernement fédéral et les organismes non gouvernementaux ils ont pu améliorer la condition des handicapés d'une façon remarquable.

Ainsi, en juin 1980, la Société internationale pour la réadaptation des handicapés, de concert avec les autorités provinciales et fédérales, tiendra son quatorzième Congrès mondial sur la réadaptation à Winnipeg au Manitoba. Les principaux objectifs de cette Conférence seront de rassembler les chefs de file dans le domaine de la réadaptation afin de revoir avec un oeil critique tous les éléments du processus de réadaptation. Nous espérons créer un climat d'échanges où les participants pourront s'enquérir et profiter des dernières découvertes mondiales en matière de réadaptation. Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, permettez-moi de lancer une invitation cordiale à mes collègues ici présents et aux spécialistes des pays que vous représentez. Pour terminer, j'aimerais citer les paroles de M. Jean Vanier, une personnalité internationale qui a oeuvré à titre personnel en faveur des handicapés: "La tragédie humaine provient de l'insensibilité, cet état qui pousse les individus et les peuples dotés de richesses de ce monde à mépriser ceux qui sont pauvres et handicapés."

Je voudrais maintenant vous entretenir brièvement de quelques initiatives canadiennes récentes qui se rapportent à la condition de la femme; elles sont conformes à l'esprit du projet de convention et pourraient être d'un certain intérêt pour d'autres États. Sur le plan législatif, le gouvernement fédéral a récemment adopté la Loi sur les droits de la personne qui interrompt formellement la discrimination sur la base, notamment, du sexe et de l'état civil et prévoit en outre le versement d'un traitement égal à travail égal. La Commission des droits de la personne, chargée de veiller à l'application de cette Loi et de recevoir les plaintes individuelles, étudie présentement les meilleures façons de traduire ce dernier principe dans la réalité. Comme le Canada est l'un des rares pays à adopter un dispositif de ce genre en matière d'égalité de rémunération, les modalités que nous avons retenues pour son exécution peuvent revêtir un certain intérêt pour d'autres pays.

Sur le plan administratif, le Canada a récemment renforcé et perfectionné les rouages fédéraux qui s'occupent des questions relatives à la condition de la femme. Au moment même où il est donné suite à la situation de la femme, nous penchons sérieusement sur l'élaboration d'un nouveau programme d'action nationale dans ce secteur. L'année 1977 a aussi donné lieu à des changements importants dans nos lois sur la citoyenneté. Les hommes et les femmes y sont traités sur un pied d'égalité tant en ce qui concerne l'acquisition de la citoyenneté qu'en ce qui concerne la transmission de cette dernière aux enfants.

Je voudrais conclure ce bref exposé par quelques remarques sur le rôle de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de ses institutions spécialisées dans la promotion de l'égalité entre les sexes. Comme il y a déjà eu bon nombre de déclarations et d'écrits à ce sujet, je me bornerai à réitérer une fois de plus la part qui revient à tous les organismes à cet égard. Les organisations internationales peuvent trop aisément commettre l'erreur de croire que la responsabilité d'améliorer la condition de la femme réside ailleurs, au sein d'organisations ou de commissions expressément conçues à cette fin. Mais les organismes et les fonds spécialement consacrés à la cause de la femme ne devraient pas en avoir le lot exclusif. Toutes les organisations internationales doivent reconnaître cette réalité et oeuvrer activement pour intégrer ces questions dans leurs activités quotidiennes. S'ils veulent faire leur part dans ce domaine.

Si nous oeuvrons tous ensemble tant sur le plan national qu'international nous verrons certainement une amélioration de la condition féminine dans le monde.

5. L'année internationale des handicapés

Depuis de nombreuses années, le Canada s'attache tout particulièrement à sensibiliser le grand public aux handicapés et à leurs problèmes. En 1980, le Canada sera l'hôte de la Conférence mondiale sur la réadaptation qui se tiendra à Winnipeg. Comme il l'a signalé à plusieurs reprises devant la Troisième Commission, cette Conférence pourrait s'ajouter aux activités prévues par l'ONU pour l'Année internationale des handicapés en 1981.

à la condition de la femme. Ce sont les États qui doivent accorder aux femmes des droits sur un pied d'égalité avec les hommes afin de cesser de perpétuer des situations qui sont aujourd'hui inacceptables. En d'autres mots bien que cette Convention entraîne évidemment des changements, elle ne m'apparaît pas essentielle. Je veux dire par là que les États peuvent et doivent agir maintenant; point n'est besoin d'attendre l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention pour rectifier l'équilibre en ce qui concerne les droits des femmes.

Ma délégation est donc en principe d'accord avec le texte de la Convention. Nous aurions préféré, évidemment, un texte dont l'objectif principal eût été de promouvoir l'égalité entre les deux sexes plutôt que de reconnaître des avantages particuliers aux femmes. Malgré tout nous croyons que ce texte peut être d'une grande utilité à cette époque-ci et nous n'hésiterons pas à en appuyer la teneur. Nous aimerions toutefois faire certains commentaires spécifiques sur le projet de texte lui-même. Nous nous inquiétons de ce que la Convention puisse perdre une partie de son impact en raison de carences au niveau de la rédaction qui sont le fait de chevauchements et de répétitions occasionnelles d'article en article. C'est pourquoi nous sommes impatientes de voir se constituer le groupe de travail qui doit se pencher sur la Convention. Nous espérons que ce groupe, sans entrer dans la substance de la Convention, pourra en améliorer la forme tant sur le plan juridique que sur le plan de la rédaction. Certains articles sont en effet si ambigus qu'ils peuvent difficilement être acceptables. Je pense, par exemple à l'article 16, il semble indiquer que les États ou les organisations internationales peuvent décider que leurs lois ou leurs conventions sont plus favorables aux femmes sans égard à la Convention. Cette possibilité risque d'avoir de sérieuses conséquences et c'est pourquoi le Canada souhaiterait que l'on modifie ou que l'on supprime cet article. Trop de lois ou de conventions destinées au départ à conférer des avantages aux femmes n'ont servi, dans la pratique, qu'à rabaisser la condition de ces dernières et à perpétuer les pratiques discriminatoires à leur endroit.

Par ailleurs, certains alinéas de l'article 9 prévoient, à l'intention des conjoints étrangers de nationaux, des privilèges spéciaux qui vont à l'encontre des dispositions de la nouvelle loi canadienne sur la citoyenneté. Nous considérons en effet que l'octroi de tels privilèges constitue matière à discrimination sur la base de l'état civil. Nous espérons donc que l'article pourra être modifié pour le rendre moins obligatoire.

Enfin, ma délégation souhaiterait que l'on accorde, dans la Convention, une importance accrue à l'interdiction formelle de discriminer sur la base de l'état civil. Il existe diverses formes de différenciation et de discrimination en fonction de l'état civil plutôt que du sexe qui n'en affectent pas moins plus souvent les femmes que les hommes. Ainsi, les femmes mariées ont beaucoup plus difficilement accès au crédit que les célibataires. Nous croyons que la suppression de cette forme de discrimination est suffisamment importante pour qu'on en fasse expressément mention dans le préambule de la Convention.

la plus grande importance si l'on veut maximiser la participation de façon que la Conférence soit saisie du plus grand nombre de points de vue possible. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Canada interprète la règle adoptée pour la participation des ONG à la Conférence mondiale comme conférant aux ONG la possibilité de faire des présentations verbales.

La délégation du Canada désire exprimer à ce point-ci son ferme appui à tous les efforts pour promouvoir un climat social propice à l'élimination du racisme et de la discrimination raciale. Ce sont là les objectifs de la politique canadienne et le fondement de notre soutien des résolutions sur la Décennie et la Conférence mondiale.

4. La Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme

En 1975, l'Assemblée générale a proclamé la période 1975-1985 la Décennie pour la femme: égalité, développement et paix. L'Assemblée a également prié la Commission de la condition de la femme de préparer un projet de Convention sur l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes, lequel a été étudié à la Troisième Commission lors de la trentième session de l'Assemblée générale. Dans un discours prononcé le 17 octobre 1977, Mme Julie L'Oranger, coordonnatrice du bureau de la situation de la femme et conseillère spéciale de la délégation du Canada à la Troisième Commission, a exprimé les vues du gouvernement du Canada.

Comme nous abordons le point 85 de notre ordre du jour, la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme: égalité, développement et paix, ma délégation voudrait saisir cette occasion pour commenter brièvement les efforts déployés en vue d'améliorer la condition de la femme et plus particulièrement le projet de Convention sur l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes. Tout d'abord ma délégation aimerait féliciter la Commission de la condition de la femme des efforts qu'elle a déployés pour achever le texte de cette Convention et nous permettre de la considérer à cette session de l'Assemblée. Nous espérons qu'elle pourra être adoptée cette année. Je puis vous assurer que nous participerons aux débats avec le plus grand esprit de collaboration.

Nous nous réjouissons aussi des efforts de par le monde et aux Nations Unies pour améliorer la condition féminine. Mais ne nous leurrons pas, nous savons tous très bien qu'il reste beaucoup de chemin à parcourir. Nous sommes bien quelques femmes à participer aux délibérations de cette Commission, mais combien d'entre nous occupons des postes de commande soit aux Nations Unies, soit dans notre propre pays? Combien d'entre nous faisons vraiment partie du processus de développement? Le rôle des femmes, de la

C'est cette reconnaissance que le projet de Convention dont nous sommes saisis tente en partie d'assurer. Mais ne nous laissons pas trop impressionner par des instruments internationaux, car ils ne changeront rien

De nombreux États doutaient en 1973 que la Décennie soit un moyen efficace pour mettre fin au fléau de la discrimination raciale. Quatre ans plus tard, nous pouvons constater que les progrès ont été sensibles et qu'il nous est possible d'opérer des changements significatifs. En 1973, la délégation du Canada souhaitait que la discrimination raciale puisse véritablement être éliminée durant la Décennie. Nous croyons maintenant que des mesures importantes peuvent être prises avant la convocation d'une conférence mondiale de lutte contre le racisme, point de mire de la communauté d'objectifs de la famille des Nations. Le gouvernement du Canada veut réaffirmer son appui au programme de la Décennie et redire que nous sommes prêts à collaborer avec tous les pays afin de promouvoir les droits de l'homme et de mettre fin aux pratiques et aux coutumes qui constituent un affront à la dignité humaine ainsi qu'une violation des engagements internationaux.

Déclaration faite par Mlle Coline Campbell à la séance plénière, pour expliquer le vote du Canada sur la résolution:

La délégation du Canada a voté en faveur de la résolution sur la tenue d'une Conférence mondiale de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale (point 75). Nous appuyons cette résolution, comme nous avons soutenu celle sur la Décennie de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination internationale (point 74), parce que nous voulons inciter la communauté internationale à éliminer un obstacle qui bloque depuis trop longtemps nos efforts communs pour promouvoir l'esprit de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Par ailleurs, nous voulons expliquer clairement les raisons qui ont motivé les votes de la délégation du Canada.

La déclaration du Canada s'est récemment opposée à l'insertion, dans l'étude des diverses résolutions sur la Décennie et la Conférence mondiale, d'un élément étranger et inacceptable qui, à son avis, a compromis les objectifs des résolutions de même que leur effet. Nous sommes conscients des efforts concertés qui ont été faits cette année pour ramener la Décennie et la Conférence mondiale à leurs buts originaux, tels que définis dans la résolution 3057 du 2 novembre 1973. Pour cette raison, nous avons soutenu les résolutions sur ces questions lors de la soixante-deuxième session de l'ECOSOC et, plus récemment, au sein de la Troisième Commission de la présente session de l'Assemblée générale. Notre appui à la Décennie et à la Conférence mondiale se fonde sur notre interprétation du "racisme" que l'Article 1 de la Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale définit comme "toute distinction, exclusion, restriction ou préférence fondée sur la race, la couleur, l'ascendance ou l'origine nationale ou ethnique". Cette définition continuera à servir de base à l'appui que notre gouvernement apporte à la Décennie, et sera l'un des éléments qui influenceront sur la participation éventuelle du Canada à la Conférence mondiale de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale qui doit se tenir en 1978.

Nous sommes particulièrement heureux de noter qu'ont été réglées les questions concernant la portée de la Conférence et la participation des ONG. La délégation du Canada est d'avis que cette dernière question est de

violés. La nécessité des recours définis à l'article 12/(a)(vi) du programme de la Décennie équivaut à la reconnaissance que les droits de l'homme sont liés dans tous les pays, quelles que soient la sincérité et l'application mises au service des idéaux contenus dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Le Canada, pour sa part, a reconnu la nécessité de diffuser aussi largement que possible l'information sur la Décennie et des programmes ont été mis en oeuvre afin que tous les Canadiens soient conscients des efforts internationaux déployés pour mettre fin au racisme et à la discrimination raciale. Depuis quelques mois, nous avons également établi une commission canadienne des droits de l'homme qui, avec des commissions analogues oeuvrant dans les dix provinces, constituera un mécanisme d'investigation des violations alléguées sur la base des voies de recours établies dans le programme de la Décennie. Cette commission canadienne est présidée par M. Gordon Fairweather, éminent juriste qui a autrefois été procureur général de la province du Nouveau-Brunswick et dont les longs antécédents comme député à la Chambre des communes témoignent de services distingués à son pays.

Au niveau international, le programme de la Décennie propose des initiatives importantes dont peuvent se prévaloir les gouvernements et les organisations régionales pour combattre la discrimination raciale. Le programme accorde une attention toute particulière au racisme et à la discrimination raciale en Afrique australe. De l'avis de la délégation du Canada, cette attention est à la fois justifiée et louable puisque c'est en Afrique australe - au Zimbabwe, en Namibie et en Afrique du Sud - que l'esprit et les dispositions de la Charte des Nations Unies sont les plus gravement bafoués. La question de l'Afrique australe met d'ailleurs en cause la volonté collective des Nations Unies pour développer et instituer les mécanismes vraiment efficaces pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme à travers le monde.

La délégation du Canada souhaite l'adoption de résolutions qui seront d'abord le garant de notre détermination collective à combattre le racisme et la discrimination raciale, et qui feront également la preuve de l'efficacité du système des Nations Unies comme instrument de promotion des aspirations et des ambitions des peuples du monde.

Le gouvernement du Canada tient à souligner que les problèmes de l'Afrique australe, s'ils ont des origines communes dans le racisme, ne se prêteront sans doute pas tous aux mêmes solutions. Sans réciter de nouveau la politique du gouvernement du Canada sur le Zimbabwe, la Namibie et l'Afrique du Sud, qui a déjà fait l'objet d'un exposé complet à la Commission des sociétés transnationales, la Commission des droits de l'homme et le Conseil économique et social, nous tenons à affirmer que nous sommes disposés à collaborer à tous les efforts déployés en vue d'assurer une résolution pacifique de ces problèmes. Cependant, au stade critique où nous en sommes, quand des progrès sont réalisés et qu'on commence à sentir les effets salutaires de la Décennie, nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit prudent d'adopter des résolutions qui pourraient chercher à préjuger l'issue des négociations en cours, à avancer des solutions ou des sanctions qu'il serait plus profitable de débattre dans d'autres enceintes des Nations Unies ou à dicter une solution militaire quand il est encore possible d'opérer des changements pacifiques.

La Décennie de lute contre le racisme et la Conférence mondiale de la lute contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale

En 1973, l'Assemblée générale a désigné la période 1973-1983 Décennie de lute contre le racisme et elle a adopté un programme d'action pour combattre le racisme et la discrimination raciale qui prévoyait la tenue d'une Conférence mondiale sur le racisme en 1978. La Décennie a bénéficié d'un appui considérable jusqu'en 1975 lorsque l'Assemblée générale a adopté la résolution 3379(XXX) assurant le soutien au racisme. Le Canada ne pouvait accepter l'établissement d'un pareil lien et a donc retiré son appui à la Décennie et à la Conférence mondiale. Depuis 1975, cependant, un mouvement se dessine en faveur du retour à l'objectif premier de la Décennie.

Les résolutions adoptées par le Conseil économique et social

(ECOSOC) au cours de ses sessions de 1977 ne font ni mention du lien entre le racisme et le racisme, ni allusion à la résolution controversée 3379(XXX). Le Canada et de nombreux autres pays occidentaux ont donc pu voter en faveur des résolutions sur la Décennie et la Conférence mondiale formulées à l'ECOSOC et subséquemment à la trente-deuxième session de l'Assemblée générale. A la Troisième Commission le 3 octobre 1977, M. W.C.Y. Mcgregor, délégué du Canada, a expliqué pourquoi le Canada renouvelait son appui à la Décennie de lute contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale. Le 16 décembre 1977, une nouvelle explication de vote a été donnée par Mlle Coline Campbell, députée, sur l'attitude du Canada à l'égard de la Conférence mondiale.

M. Mcgregor a déclaré ce qui suit devant la Troisième Commission.

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Le programme de la Décennie de lute contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale adopté à la vingt-huitième session de l'Assemblée générale en 1973 renferme un éventail complet et ambitieux de buts et objectifs aux niveaux national, régional et international et a établi comme objectif ultime l'élimination totale du fléau de la discrimination raciale. Nous sommes heureux de signaler que depuis 1973 le programme a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt au Canada et qu'il a été l'un des principaux facteurs à amener des discussions et des décisions fédérales-provinciales qui ont notamment donné au Canada la possibilité d'adhérer au Pacte relatif aux droits économiques, sociaux et culturels et au Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques et à son Protocole facultatif.

La délégation du Canada attache une importance particulière au programme de la Décennie car, à son avis, il renferme les deux éléments clés de toute discussion pratique sur la question des droits de l'homme. En premier lieu, le programme reconnaît la nécessité d'une large diffusion de renseignements sur les libertés et les droits fondamentaux, de façon à amener une réalisation intégrale des idéaux exprimés dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. En second lieu, le programme reconnaît aussi la nécessité de voies de recours efficaces dont peuvent se prévaloir des individus qui estiment que leur liberté et leurs droits fondamentaux ont été

organismes d'enquête. La délégation du Canada désire à nouveau inviter le gouvernement du Chili à admettre dans son pays tous les membres du Groupe de travail afin qu'ils procèdent à un examen approfondi et impartial de la situation. Nous désirons en outre faire observer que si le gouvernement du Chili veut que la collectivité internationale attache crédit à ses propos lorsqu'il déclare se préoccuper des droits de l'homme, il n'a qu'à assortir ses dires de gestes concrets en admettant chez lui le Groupe de travail, suivant des conditions conformes à son mandat.

La genèse des droits de la personne au Chili est consignée dans le rapport du Groupe de travail. Nous tenons toutefois à faire remarquer notamment l'existence d'un problème qui, à sa façon, prouve l'absence de collaboration des autorités chiliennes à l'égard des questions relatives aux droits de la personne. Nous savons tous que des parents de certaines personnes disparues dans des circonstances douteuses ont fait la grève de la faim cette année devant le siège social de la CEPAL à Santiago. La manifestation a pris fin lorsque le gouvernement du Chili s'est formellement engagé à étudier le cas des trente-six personnes disparues et à se garder d'utiliser de représailles envers les manifestants. De l'avis de la délégation du Canada, ces deux promesses ont été violées. Pour ce qui est des trente-six personnes disparues, la réponse des autorités chiliennes est tout à fait insatisfaisante. De fait, on peut difficilement dire qu'elle constitue une enquête. Pour ce qui est des représailles, l'engagement n'a pas non plus été respecté. L'une des femmes qui a participé à la grève de la faim est membre d'une délégation de trois personnes qui s'est rendue à New York, puis à Ottawa, pour présenter au gouvernement du Canada les détails de leur cas. Nous apprenons maintenant que cette femme et les deux autres membres du groupe se sont vu refuser l'autorisation de rentrer dans leur propre pays.

La délégation du Canada, s'étant vu un État qui se déclare préoccupé par la question des droits de l'homme puisse agir de façon aussi arbitraire. Cet acte est, à notre avis, moralement et juridiquement inacceptable. Il convient par ailleurs de signaler les conséquences tragiques qui, sur le plan humain, découlent d'une telle attitude. Trop de personnes ont souffert inutilement dans leur recherche de solutions raisonnables à des questions non moins raisonnables et il est maintenant temps de trouver des solutions humaines qui allégeront les peines causées par une situation franchement tragique.

Enfin, la délégation du Canada désire réitérer sa préoccupation fondamentale à l'égard du problème pratique que pose le rétablissement du respect des droits de l'homme au Chili. Nous ne sommes pas en faveur de condamnations ou de dénonciations lorsqu'elles peuvent être évitées; nous ne croyons pas, non plus, que cette forme d'action produira nécessairement les meilleurs résultats possibles dans une situation donnée. Les gouvernements peuvent contribuer au rétablissement des droits de la personne de diverses façons qui varieront selon les circonstances. Nous croyons cependant que les pressions exercées par la collectivité internationale constituent l'arme la plus puissante de l'arsenal onusien. Il faut continuer d'exercer des pressions sur le gouvernement du Chili jusqu'à ce que le Groupe de travail se déclare entièrement convaincu que les droits de l'homme sont de nouveau respectés au Chili.

La délégation du Canada désire maintenant commenter les parties du rapport de l'ECOSOC qui traitent de la situation des droits de la personne au Chili. Nous voulons nous réserver le droit de nous prononcer sur d'autres questions qui pourraient également relever de l'article 12.

La délégation du Canada tient à remercier le distingué président du Groupe de travail pour la clarté de son introduction au rapport sur la question des droits de l'homme au Chili. Le Groupe de travail a présenté un rapport que nous jugeons pondéré et exhaustif. Il reconnaît notamment que la situation en ce qui concerne les droits de la personne s'est améliorée au cours de la dernière année. Les cas de torture sont moins fréquents et le nombre de prisonniers politiques, d'arrestations arbitraires, de détentions injustifiées et de disparitions a diminué. Malheureusement, ces progrès n'ont été que partiels, et dans de nombreux cas, marginaux. En outre, de nombreuses améliorations tiennent uniquement de ce que les violations des droits de la personne ont été remplies par des formes moins brutales. La délégation du Canada partage l'opinion exprimée dans le rapport, à savoir que le respect fondamental des droits de la personne n'a pas été rétabli au Chili et qu'en fait, la pratique de certaines formes de violations est devenue systématique et institutionnalisée. Cette situation suscite chez nous davantage de peine et de regret que de colère car, jusqu'à ces dernières années, le Chili était reconnu depuis longtemps pour sa longue tradition de libertés civiles.

Pour la délégation du Canada, la question fondamentale des droits de la personne au Chili n'est guère équivoque. Les dimensions morales de la question sont évidentes. Nous n'acceptons pas qu'un Etat puisse, par le recours à des manœuvres arbitraires, injustes et dégradantes, empêcher ses citoyens de jouir de leurs droits. Quelle que soit la source d'où nous tirons nos principes fondamentaux, il faut interdire les atteintes à la dignité et à la valeur mêmes de l'homme. La dimension juridique n'est pas moins évidente. Le gouvernement du Chili s'est engagé à respecter certaines obligations juridiques. En adhérant aux Nations Unies, il a notamment accepté de respecter la Charte des obligations des Etats membres qui trouvent leur expression la plus éloquente dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Le Chili a de plus ratifié les pactes internationaux sur les droits de la personne qui établissent de façon non équivoque les obligations des Etats de respecter des critères clairement définis à cet égard. En clair, le gouvernement du Chili a manqué à ses obligations. Ce faisant, il a attiré sur lui à juste titre l'attention soutenue de la collectivité internationale. A notre avis, cette surveillance doit se maintenir jusqu'à ce qu'il devienne manifeste que ces engagements internationaux sont respectés suivant des modalités conformes à la lettre des Pactes.

La délégation du Canada n'a pu s'empêcher d'être frappée par l'écart qui existe entre les déclarations faites en introduction au rapport par le distingué président du Groupe de travail et les propos tenus devant cette Commission par le distingué ambassadeur du Chili. Ce n'est cependant ni le moment ni l'endroit de faire des observations détaillées sur des différences d'interprétation et d'opinion. Nous sommes toutefois d'avis que la persistance de tels écarts justifie en soi la poursuite des travaux des

En outre, la délégation du Canada déplore le fait que la résolution s'arrête très peu sur l'établissement de mécanismes d'application efficaces du droit humanitaire. Nous croyons que l'élaboration de priorités et de normes ne peut être dissociée des moyens permettant à la communauté internationale de contribuer à la promotion et à la protection des droits de la personne. La création d'un poste de haut-commissaire aux droits de l'homme, dont nous avons discuté dans le cadre de l'étude du présent point, aurait pu grandement favoriser la promotion des droits de la personne ainsi que le réexamen des priorités de la communauté internationale. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Canada voyait une parenté évidente entre les propositions portant création du poste de haut-commissaire et l'approche préconisée dans la résolution L.17/Rév.1. Nous espérons que toutes les délégations pourront bientôt se pencher à nouveau sur le projet de création du poste de haut-commissaire à la lumière des débats qui se sont tenus cette année. Nous espérons également que les travaux de la Commission des droits de l'homme et la prochaine session de l'Assemblée générale déboucheront sur des propositions destinées à accroître l'efficacité des mécanismes des Nations Unies à l'avantage de tous les Etats membres.

La détermination collective de la communauté mondiale à combattre les violations criantes et répétées des droits de la personne, où qu'elles se produisent, constituera le véritable test des concepts entérinés dans la résolution L.17/Rév.1. L'ONU s'est à bon droit penchée sur la situation des droits de la personne au Chili. Nous croyons qu'elle doit faire montre d'autant sinon plus de vigilance et de rigueur à l'égard d'autres Etats. Ainsi, rien ne justifie notre inaction vis-à-vis de l'Ouganda où persistent des atteintes criantes aux droits de la personne. La délégation du Canada regrette que l'occasion ne nous ait pas été donnée de nous arrêter plus longuement sur cette question. A notre avis, les dispositions de la résolution L.17/Rév.1 s'appliquent dans tous les cas où il y a abus flagrant. Pour démontrer notre foi et notre engagement face aux idéaux que renferme la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, il nous faudra transposer l'esprit de ce texte dans des mesures concrètes et efficaces au profit de la communauté humaine.

2. Droits de l'homme au Chili

En 1973, la Sous-commission de la lutte contre les mesures discriminatoires et de la protection des minorités a recommandé à l'Assemblée générale d'enquêter sur les rapports faisant état de violations des droits de l'homme au Chili. En 1974, un groupe de travail spécial a été créé pour faire enquête sur la situation. Depuis, il présente chaque année son rapport à l'Assemblée générale. Le groupe de travail spécial a tenté d'entrer au Chili, mais comme il n'en a pas reçu la permission, il a dû rédiger ses rapports sans avoir pu se rendre compte sur place.

Le troisième rapport du groupe de travail a fait l'objet d'un débat devant la Troisième Commission lors de la trente-troisième session. Lors du débat du 6 décembre 1977, M. W.C.Y. McGregor, délégué du Canada à la Troisième Commission, a fait la déclaration suivante:

La délégation du Canada estime que le présent point à l'ordre du jour revêt une importance primordiale pour l'avenir des travaux des Nations Unies dans le domaine des droits de l'homme. Elle espère que d'un débat constructif sortiront des propositions nouvelles et utiles pour la réalisation de nos objectifs communs.

Après l'explication de vote à l'issue de l'étude en comité, les projets de résolutions sont envoyés en séance plénière aux fins de leur adoption par l'Assemblée générale. Les délégués ont alors une nouvelle occasion d'expliquer leurs votes sur les projets de résolutions à l'étude. M. Claude-André Lachance, député, a fait la déclaration suivante le 16 décembre 1977 pour expliquer le vote du Canada :

La délégation du Canada a voté en faveur du projet de résolution L.17/Rév.1 qui cherche à établir les priorités ou concepts qui guideront les initiatives prises dans le domaine des droits de la personne au sein du système des Nations Unies. La délégation du Canada convient qu'il est valable d'établir des priorités. Bien qu'il se produise partout dans le monde des violations flagrantes et systématiques des droits de la personne, il est compréhensible que les Nations Unies se penchent sur les abus les plus graves. A notre avis, l'établissement de priorités ne contredit en rien l'objectif avéré de la politique canadienne qui vise à assurer à tous les peuples de la terre la pleine et entière jouissance des droits de la personne et des libertés fondamentales.

En dépit de notre vote affirmatif, nous tenons à faire état de certaines difficultés au niveau de l'équilibre et de l'approche de la résolution. En premier lieu, la gamme des priorités exposées en L.17/Rév.1 ne nous semble pas suffisamment équilibrée. Si nous souscrivons aux priorités dont sont assortis les droits énumérés dans le premier paragraphe du dispositif, nous croyons qu'il faut davantage mettre en évidence les violations criantes et répétées de la dignité et de la valeur humaines par des moyens tels que la torture et le génocide. Nous croyons également qu'il faut accorder une importance plus grande aux droits fondamentaux des individus de façon que l'ONU puisse intervenir face aux restrictions imposées aux libertés de pensée, de parole et de culte que l'on retrouve beaucoup trop fréquemment dans de nombreuses parties du monde. La délégation du Canada continuera d'oeuvrer à l'instauration d'une échelle de priorités qui reflète, à son avis, une vision plus globale des besoins des personnes et des peuples.

Certaines parties de la résolution L.17/Rév.1 donnent également à entendre qu'on ne peut jouir de ces droits et libertés sans préalables. La délégation du Canada reconnaît qu'une jouissance pleine et entière de ces droits est rendue plus aléatoire en l'absence de certaines conditions socio-économiques, mais n'accepte pas que la réalisation de ces conditions soit le préalable de la promotion et de la protection de tels droits. Les Etats doivent se faire les promoteurs et les défenseurs des droits de la personne, indépendamment de leur conjoncture socio-économique, et nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut respecter scrupuleusement les engagements internationaux

Nous croyons pourtant qu'un plus grand nombre d'États devraient participer à leurs activités et délibérations. La promotion de principes fondamentaux de l'ONU; tous les États ont le devoir de veiller à ce que les Nations Unies en tant qu'organisation demeurent fidèles à ce principe.

La délégation du Canada est d'avis en troisième lieu qu'il y a souvent un écart appréciable entre les obligations assumées par les États et l'exécution adéquate de ces obligations. De même, le mécanisme dont nous disposons actuellement au niveau multilatéral pour promouvoir nos objectifs communs n'est pas en mesure d'assurer l'application des principes de la Déclaration universelle avec toute l'efficacité désirable. Les institutions actuelles au sein des Nations Unies, à notre avis, ont besoin d'être dynamisées et renforcées. Là où il y a des lacunes, il faut les combler.

Deux résolutions qui ont été présentées répondent en bonne partie à nos préoccupations. Nous appuyons la proposition visant à instituer un nouveau poste aux Nations Unies pour coordonner les efforts déployés au chapitre des droits de l'homme et offrir ses bons offices aux États membres. Comme divers organismes onusiens sont saisis depuis plusieurs années de la proposition visant à établir un poste de Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme, il n'y a pas lieu de répéter les arguments initiant en faveur de sa création. Disons seulement que cette proposition est, à notre avis, conforme aux objectifs énoncés dans la Charte des Nations Unies et ne menace en rien la souveraineté nationale. C'est une réponse pratique à un problème pratique qu'on ne doit pas noyer dans les eaux troubles des luttes idéologiques. Le projet de résolution tient compte dans une large mesure des vues et intérêts de nombreuses délégations qui avaient exprimé des doutes quant à son opportunité. Nous espérons maintenant que la Commission appuiera une initiative visant à une meilleure coordination des efforts et à l'arsenal des moyens dont nous disposons pour promouvoir et protéger les droits de l'homme.

Par ailleurs, ainsi que le suggère le projet de résolution L.17, nous estimons également important que les Nations Unies établissent des priorités dans le domaine des droits de l'homme pour les prochaines années. Des violations flagrantes des droits de l'homme surviennent continuellement dans diverses régions du monde; la communauté internationale devrait s'attaquer à ces problèmes de façon prioritaire. La délégation du Canada reconnaît qu'il n'a jamais été facile d'établir des priorités. L'ONU est à l'heure actuelle confrontée à de nombreux problèmes internationaux dont l'importance dépend fatalement de l'optique de chaque État membre. Nous avons, pour notre part, notre propre barème de priorités mais nous sommes disposés à collaborer en toute bonne foi avec les autres délégations afin d'établir un ordre de priorités qui recueillerait l'appui du monde entier et pourrait ainsi servir de base à une action internationale forte et concrète.

La délégation du Canada a déjà eu l'occasion, à la présente session, de faire connaître les grandes lignes de sa position sur la question des droits de l'homme au sein des Nations Unies. Nous nous proposons aujourd'hui d'ajouter quelques considérations qui se rapportent spécifiquement au point 76, soit aux "autres méthodes et moyens de mieux assurer la jouissance des droits de l'homme". Par souci de brièveté, nous limiterons notre exposé à quelques éléments fondamentaux que dégage l'examen de ce point. Nous réservons le droit de prendre à nouveau la parole ultérieurement si de nouvelles questions devaient surgir.

La délégation du Canada estime que les trois points suivants sont essentiels à tout débat général sur les droits de l'homme. En premier lieu, il ne fait aucun doute pour nous que les efforts déployés par la communauté internationale doivent viser la jouissance universelle des droits de l'homme par toutes les personnes et tous les peuples et ce, de façon uniforme et suivie. Nous connaissons les obstacles qui entravent pour l'instant la réalisation de cet objectif. Le monde n'étant pas homogène sur les plans social et culturel, il s'avère par conséquent difficile d'établir des normes générales applicables à tout un éventail de situations. Il nous faut néanmoins persévérer dans notre détermination d'élaborer et d'appliquer des normes répondant d'une part aux préoccupations et aux intérêts des Etats membres et favorisant par ailleurs le progrès vers le but ultime qui consiste à assurer à toutes les personnes et à tous les peuples la pleine jouissance des droits et libertés que leur confère la déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme.

Nous reconnaissons également que les droits de l'homme sont par essence indivisibles et interdépendants. Plusieurs de ces droits - la protection contre la torture, l'esclavage et les actions arbitraires ou illégales - peuvent et devraient être garantis par tous les Etats, quelles que soient leurs circonstances politiques, sociales ou économiques. Il nous faut cependant accepter qu'aussi longtemps qu'une forte proportion de la population mondiale vivra dans le plus grand dénuement, nous n'avancerons que lentement et péniblement sur le chemin de la promotion de la dignité humaine. En d'autres termes, la pleine jouissance des droits est impossible dans les pays qui n'ont pas les ressources nécessaires pour satisfaire les besoins essentiels de la personne. Nous pourrions tous reconnaître primo que les droits de l'homme sont au coeur des préoccupations de la communauté mondiale, et secondo qu'il faut oeuvrer en vue d'une reconnaissance pleine et inconditionnelle des droits de l'homme.

La délégation du Canada tient à souligner en deuxième lieu le rôle crucial qui est celui des Nations Unies en vue d'assurer le respect des droits énoncés dans divers instruments juridiques internationaux et dans diverses résolutions et déclarations. Certes il appartient en premier lieu aux Etats de s'acquiescer de leurs obligations sur le plan unilatéral. Personne ne conteste sérieusement les droits des Etats souverains ou n'a proposé de restreindre cette souveraineté. Au cours des trente dernières années cependant, on en est venu à mieux comprendre le rôle des organes multilatéraux à l'appui du travail des Etats membres. Le gouvernement du Canada est d'avis que l'existence et ces institutions s'accorde parfaitement avec le principe du respect de la souveraineté nationale.

D. QUESTIONS DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE, DES PROBLÈMES SOCIAUX ET DES ACTIVITÉS HUMAINITAIRES

1. Les autres méthodes et moyens qui s'offrent dans le cadre des organismes des Nations Unies pour mieux assurer la jouissance effective des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales

La protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme sont au premier rang des préoccupations de l'ONU. Depuis l'adoption de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme en 1948, les Nations Unies ont adopté plusieurs autres déclarations et instruments juridiques comme le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques et le Protocole facultatif s'y rapportant, le Pacte international relatif aux droits économiques, sociaux et culturels et la Déclaration sur la protection de toutes les personnes contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants, lesquels devraient établir des normes internationales de conduite. Les droits de l'homme, cependant, continuent d'être un sujet controversé. Cette année encore, de profondes divergences d'opinion sont apparues et l'on a discuté à l'envi de résolutions les reflétant. De nombreuses délégations, y compris celle du Canada, croient que l'ONU devrait créer un Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme afin de promouvoir le respect universel des droits de la personne, de coordonner les initiatives de l'ONU en cette matière et, sur demande, de faire enquête sur les allégations de violations des droits de l'homme. La principale critique lancée contre cette proposition était qu'un organisme de ce genre s'ingérerait inévitablement dans les affaires internes des États. On a en outre soutenu que le Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme imposerait uniformément des normes à des pays dont les problèmes très différents, d'ordre économique notamment, ne seraient pas pris en considération. Le Canada croit que l'argument n'était pas fondé puisque le Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme ne serait pas en mesure de faire son travail sans le consentement et la coopération des États, ce qui rendrait impossible toute ingérence dans leurs affaires internes. En outre, même s'il accepte l'importance du développement économique et le caractère indivisible des droits de l'homme, le Canada ne pouvait pas appuyer la thèse voulant que la jouissance des droits dépende de l'exercice des droits économiques.

La résolution L.17/Rév.1 dont il est question dans la Déclaration souligne l'importance des droits économiques et le caractère indivisible de tous les droits. Les autres résolutions, désignées sous le numéro L.25/Rév.1, demandaient la création d'un poste de Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme. La première a été adoptée par l'Assemblée générale; la résolution L.21/Rév.1 n'a pas été mise aux voix à la Troisième Commission et n'a donc pu l'être en plénière. Le Canada a appuyé les deux résolutions à la Troisième Commission, mais aurait préféré que les deux soient mises aux voix en plénière.

Le 22 novembre 1977, M. l'ambassadeur Pierre Charpentier, délégué du Canada à la Troisième Commission a expliqué la position du Canada sur cette question.

Ma délégation croit qu'il y a lieu d'accorder une attention plus grande et de déployer des efforts plus nombreux afin de régler les problèmes de la malnutrition. Selon nous, les efforts visant à les corriger devraient s'inscrire dans un cadre plus général destiné à améliorer l'état de santé et à accroître la production agricole car, tout d'abord, il est impossible de considérer les problèmes de nutrition indépendamment des autres. Ensuite, il faudrait axer les efforts sur des groupes vulnérables, comme les enfants, les femmes enceintes et les mères qui allaitent. Puis, nous espérons que les pays en développement en viendront, dans une large mesure, à se suffire en matière d'alimentation, de manière à ne pas compromettre la santé des habitants et à ne pas perturber les programmes au cas où ces pays ne pourraient plus compter sur l'aide extérieure.

Enfin, je veux dire un mot sur le commerce des denrées alimentaires. Voilà une question qui, selon nous, devrait d'abord être traitée dans les négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT et du Conseil international du blé. Nous croyons que la planification à ces négociations et à tout accord éventuel pouvant en résulter devrait être aussi large que possible.

Le sujet que nous abordons aujourd'hui présente un intérêt particulier pour le Canada, à titre d'important exportateur agricole. Grâce à notre participation à des programmes d'aide bilatérale et multilatérale et en raison de certaines initiatives, comme le financement du Centre international de recherche sur le développement, lequel participe aux activités dans ce domaine, nous avons tâche de contribuer aux efforts visant à résoudre les problèmes alimentaires. Je profite de l'occasion pour réitérer la volonté du Canada de faire avancer cette grande entreprise humaine.

À cause des bonnes récoltes dans de nombreux pays, les dernières années ont connu une amélioration de la situation mondiale en matière d'alimentation. Ainsi au Canada, 1977 s'est avérée une autre année de production au dessus de la moyenne. Ma délégation est convaincue que la communauté internationale doit profiter le plus possible de l'occasion ainsi présentée pour entreprendre un programme d'action positif. Avant tout, la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition mérite la constante priorité et l'attention soutenue qui seules nous permettront de trouver des solutions à long terme aux problèmes mondiaux de l'alimentation.

Par ailleurs, nous comptons que les pays en développement prendront des décisions fermes de manière à accorder une plus grande priorité à l'agriculture et à affecter des ressources plus nombreuses à la production agricole. Au Canada, nous avons insisté sur la planification et la mise au point d'une politique destinée à inciter les cultivateurs à accroître leurs investissements et leurs efforts. Les pays en développement pourraient adopter des mesures semblables et, comme le recommande le communiqué de Manille, les agences de l'ONU pourraient ajouter aux efforts de planification. Par ailleurs, le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation pourrait suivre la situation dans les pays en développement afin de voir, notamment, quelle utilisation a été faite de l'aide extérieure.

Le Canada appuie l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le principe du maintien des réserves nécessaires. Grâce au stockage prévu par le système de marketing de la Commission canadienne du blé, nous sommes en mesure tant de faire face à une situation d'urgence que de respecter des engagements aux fins d'aide et de commerce, de sorte que nous n'ayons nullement besoin de convertir une partie de nos stocks en réserves nationales. Nous estimons que des dispositions relatives aux réserves alimentaires devraient figurer dans un nouvel accord international sur le blé de manière à coordonner, dans une large mesure, les exigences relatives à la sécurité alimentaire et à la stabilité du marché. Puisque, en vertu de telles dispositions, les avantages s'appliqueraient à tous, il devrait en être de même pour ce qui est des frais que partageraient importateurs et exportateurs.

Quant à la sécurité alimentaire, il faut se rappeler qu'elle est impossible à réaliser sans le maintien d'une production élevée. Les fluctuations du marché influent sur l'exploitant agricole et, si les prix sont trop bas, il réduira sa production de denrées. Ainsi aux fins de la sécurité alimentaire, il est essentiel que les producteurs vendent à bon prix. C'est pourquoi elles devraient relever du Conseil international du blé.

Sous réserve de l'approbation du Parlement, le gouvernement du Canada se propose de verser 7.5 millions de dollars à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. Selon les taux actuels, cela représente l'équivalent de 50 mille tonnes, soit 10 p. cent de l'objectif total fixé pour les réserves.

Les programmes canadiens d'aide alimentaire respectent déjà les recommandations du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. D'abord, nous fournissons depuis longtemps un apport considérable au programme alimentaire mondial et nous versons pour 1977-1978 environ 150 millions de dollars. Dernièrement, le Canada a accepté, lors de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, le principe de la planification prospective et il s'est engagé à fournir un million de tonnes de céréales par an au cours des années financières 1975, 1976 et 1977. Nous croyons aussi que les pays bénéficiaires pourraient également s'engager en matière de planification prospective, en formulant leurs propres programmes nationaux d'alimentation.

Pour ce faire, priorité serait donnée à un ensemble d'interventions à court et à long terme, faites aussi bien par les pays développés qu'en développement, dans le cadre d'un programme intégré axé sur la disparition de la faim et de la malnutrition.

La déclaration qui suit a été faite par M. John Smal, délégué du Canada à la Deuxième Commission, le 8 novembre 1977.

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Les problèmes de l'alimentation interviennent si directement dans l'existence et la prospérité des individus et des nations qu'il est difficile de songer à un sujet de préoccupation qui soit plus immédiat et universel. Certains pays, dont le Canada, jouissent d'une situation privilégiée car ils cultivent des denrées alimentaires essentielles en quantités qui dépassent largement leur consommation. Personne n'ignore, toutefois, que la situation ailleurs est toute autre et que, dans certains pays, des pénuries alimentaires perpétuelles constituent un obstacle important au bien-être et au progrès économique. La reconnaissance de ce phénomène par la collectivité internationale s'est traduite par la création de nombreuses institutions dont la mission est de conjuguer les efforts et de favoriser le progrès là où la chose est nécessaire. Aujourd'hui, je profite de cette discussion sur le rapport du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, rapport habilement présenté par M. Arturo Tanco, distingué président du Conseil et secrétaire à l'agriculture des Philippines, pour remercier, au nom de ma délégation, le gouvernement des Philippines qui a rendu possible la tenue d'une session enrichissante à Manille, en juin dernier, et le Secrétaire Tanco pour son efficacité remarquable à titre de président et pour son excellent exposé devant les membres de la Commission.

Le rapport du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation est avant tout remarquable grâce au communiqué de Manille: programme d'action pour l'élimination définitive de la faim et de la malnutrition. Les préoccupations dans ce domaine ont rarement été exposées de façon aussi complète. Ma délégation souhaite faire part de son appui au communiqué, comme elle l'a fait à Manille, et elle se joint à l'appel en faveur de son adoption par l'Assemblée générale et son application par les Etats membres. A ce propos, je désire résumer brièvement nos vues sur les grandes questions soulevées dans le communiqué.

Dans le domaine de la production de denrées alimentaires, le Canada accepte le principe de désigner des pays prioritaires du point de vue de l'alimentation et de déployer des efforts particuliers afin de les aider. Nous contribuons déjà à accroître la production alimentaire dans les pays les plus démunis, ayant doublé l'aide versée dans le cadre de nos programmes d'aide bilatérale à l'agriculture. Nous sommes disposés à faire davantage. Le Canada se propose de ratifier, vers la fin du mois, l'accord portant création du FIDA, et il s'est engagé à verser 33 millions de dollars au cours des trois premières années. En outre, de nombreux pays prioritaires du point de vue de l'alimentation font déjà l'objet d'égards particuliers grâce à nos programmes d'aide au développement, axés sur les pays les moins développés.

conviction que la formule Nairobi/PNUE soit objectivement et intellectuellement préférable. Nous respectons tout autant la sincérité des propositions de nombre d'autres États qui sont convaincus que la formule de New York/AES est la meilleure solution. Nous devons rappeler qu'à notre avis le peu de temps dont nous disposons serait mal employé si les tenants de l'une ou l'autre solution proposaient à nouveau une résolution visant à soumettre à notre étude leurs théories extrêmes, à moins que l'un des deux groupes prouve qu'il a rattrapé la majorité à son point de vue. Une solution de compromis comme la proposition Nairobi/AES mise de l'avant par la Suède et le Canada à ECOSOC 63, constitue, selon nous le seul fondement d'un consensus. Il s'agit en outre de la seule solution qui reconnaisse de façon réaliste que les questions relatives aux établissements humains ne sont ni exclusivement environnementales, ni exclusivement développementales par nature. Elles sont un mélange des deux. On ne peut dissocier les établissements humains de leur cadre socio-économique pas plus qu'on peut séparer entièrement l'environnement humain de l'environnement naturel. La proposition canado-suédoise reconnaît cette situation. D'ailleurs, on ne saurait donner suite à la question des établissements humains sans compromis. Nous ne proposons pas maintenant d'approfondir la question; nous nous contenterons d'ajouter que la délégation du Canada s'efforcera au cours de la présente session, comme elle l'a fait lors de la dernière, d'en arriver à une décision par consensus sur le suivi d'Habitat.

4. Le rapport du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation

Il y a de nombreuses années que le Canada s'est engagé en faveur de la création d'un mécanisme qui soustrairait la population mondiale à la menace de la famine. Dans le cadre des Nations Unies, cela s'est d'abord traduit par une participation active aux travaux de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO). Le Canada a aussi manifesté son intérêt pour cette question en nommant M. G.N. Vogel, ancien commissaire en chef de la Commission canadienne du blé, directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial (auquel le Canada a versé environ 150 millions de dollars pour l'exercice 1977-1978) et en promettant 7.5 millions à la Réserve alimentaire d'urgence. Enfin, le Canada ratifiera à la fin du mois l'accord portant création du Fonds international de développement agricole, au fonctionnement duquel il versera \$33 millions pour les trois premières années.

C'est en raison de son étroite association aux travaux du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation que le Canada a coparrainé et piloté une résolution qui demande à l'Assemblée générale d'approuver et d'appliquer le communiqué de Manille du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Le communiqué établissait que même si la situation alimentaire mondiale est passablement plus rassurante en 1977 qu'elle ne l'était au début des années 70, il était loin d'être assuré qu'elle continuerait à s'améliorer.

serait défini, pour chaque domaine et tâche fonctionnelle, un certain nombre de secteurs plus précis qui seraient assortis de plans de travail et de buts correspondants afin de réaliser les grands objectifs. Le Secrétariat ferait rapport sur les objectifs atteints ou non plutôt que sur les projets particuliers. L'adoption de cette forme de documentation permettrait à la fois une meilleure planification et une meilleure évaluation des programmes et projets.

Comme l'avait demandé le Conseil d'administration, le directeur général a transmis aux gouvernements, à titre documentaire, le rapport du groupe de travail officiels sur la documentation, de même que ses observations sur le document et sa portée. La délégation du Canada prie instamment les gouvernements d'étudier à la fois le document et les observations du directeur exécutif afin que le Conseil d'administration puisse approfondir cette question au cours de la sixième session.

Le Canada est particulièrement heureux de la décision du Conseil d'administration de former un petit groupe de travail sur le droit de l'environnement. Dans le contexte du PNUC, ce groupe sera particulièrement bien placé pour élaborer des propositions de droit international dans le domaine de l'environnement.

Par ailleurs, nous nous réjouissons de la décision de réunir à nouveau le groupe intergouvernemental d'experts sur les ressources naturelles partagées par deux États ou plus, ce qui permet ainsi au PNUC de continuer de participer à l'élaboration de principes de droit de l'environnement liés à cette question précise.

Je désire enfin profiter de l'occasion pour faire quelques observations sur le Fonds pour l'environnement. Lors de la cinquième session, le Conseil d'administration a appuyé l'intention exprimée par M. Tolba de solliciter des contributions volontaires pour le prochain cycle quinquennal (1978-1983) auprès d'un éventail le plus large possible. Le financement approprié du PNUC incombe à tous les pays et nous invitons tous ceux qui peuvent le faire à contribuer au Fonds pour l'environnement. Depuis la création de ce dernier il y a déjà 5 ans, le Canada a versé 5 millions de dollars au PNUC. Je suis heureux d'annoncer que, sous réserve de l'approbation du Parlement, le gouvernement du Canada lui a versé un million de dollars en 1978. À l'avenir, nos contributions seront fondées sur notre évaluation du rendement du PNUC. Bien que le Canada ait déjà fait connaître ses inquiétudes sur l'aptitude du PNUC à atteindre les niveaux de dépenses établis à moyen terme, son engagement envers le PNUC demeure. Ses préoccupations sont universelles. Nous avons reconnu la nécessité d'une coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'environnement et nous croyons au caractère fondamental du PNUC et à sa faculté d'engendrer cette coopération.

La question du suivi institutionnel d'Habitat a été soulevée au cours de ce débat. Nous avons noté la proposition d'un de nos distingués collègues qui semble nous proposer de nouveau pour étude une idée à laquelle la plupart des membres de cette Assemblée ont déjà indiqué leur impossibilité d'y souscrire. Nous respectons la sincérité de la proposition et de la

En ce qui concerne le rapport du PNUF, si adroitement présenté par M. Tolba lundi dernier, ma délégation tient à féliciter le Conseil d'administration pour le professionnalisme et la compétence dont il a fait preuve dans la direction des travaux de la cinquième session. L'expérience acquise par le PNUF au sein du système de l'ONU permet à ma délégation d'avoir confiance dans les cinq prochaines années. Nous sommes heureux des efforts déployés par M. Tolba pour fixer les objectifs à réaliser d'ici 1982.

Le Canada croit au rôle de catalyseur et de coordonnateur joué par le PNUF au sein du système de l'ONU et il est conscient des progrès accomplis à cette fin.

Nous reconnaissons que le PNUF se veut le reflet des activités environnementales menées dans tout le système de l'ONU. Le CAC et d'autres organismes doivent continuer de surveiller et de coordonner ces activités afin de tisser des liens encore plus étroits entre les secrétariats du PNUF et d'autres organismes de l'ONU. Nous espérons que le document du PNUF pourra en définitive brosser un tableau complet des activités de l'ONU dans le domaine de l'environnement. A cet égard, nous applaudissons à l'invitation lancée par le Conseil d'administration aux organes directeurs de toutes les institutions onusiennes d'autoriser leurs dirigeants à collaborer entièrement avec le directeur exécutif du PNUF pour fixer des objectifs précis aux programmes écologiques relevant du système de l'ONU. Nous rappelons en outre la proposition du Canada formulée devant le Conseil d'administration à la cinquième session selon laquelle les Etats membres pourraient participer à ce processus en assurant la coordination sur les questions écologiques entre leurs délégations et les organes directeurs d'autres institutions de l'ONU.

A cette occasion, le Canada a aussi fait un certain nombre de suggestions pour améliorer la qualité de la documentation du PNUF. Malgré les progrès encourageants réalisés l'année dernière, ma délégation estime que le contenu du document de base du PNUF doit être précisé si l'on veut procéder à une planification et à une évaluation valables des activités écologiques menées dans le cadre du système de l'ONU. Lors de la dernière session, un groupe de travail officieux du Conseil d'administration du PNUF a collaboré avec le Secrétariat afin de l'aider à améliorer la présentation du document. Le groupe de travail a signalé, entre autres, qu'une documentation appropriée permettrait non seulement au Conseil d'administration de recenser les priorités, mais servirait aussi d'instrument de gestion pour le Secrétariat lui-même.

Nous croyons qu'il faut notamment fournir plus de renseignements sur l'ensemble des ressources affectées à la réalisation des buts et objectifs fixés. A cet égard, nous croyons qu'il importe de connaître non seulement la quantité de ressources que le PNUF prélève tant sur le Fonds que sur le budget régulier pour un secteur donné, mais aussi de disposer de données sur les ressources fournies par tous les organismes de l'ONU dans ce domaine précis. Ces données budgétaires serviraient au Conseil d'administration pour son évaluation des programmes et la collecte des renseignements nécessaires, il faciliterait le processus de coordination. Suivant la formule proposée, il

Nous sommes convaincus que le processus de développement sera renforcé si, d'office, nous envisageons les conséquences de nos actes sur l'environnement. De telles considérations sont positives, car elles nous permettent de choisir des schèmes de développement propres à encourager une utilisation judicieuse des ressources et de veiller à ce que de nouvelles pratiques ne détruisent pas les ressources sur lesquelles elles sont fondées. Au Canada, nous avons récemment élaboré à l'échelle du pays des lignes directrices qui prévoient la conduite d'une étude de l'incidence écologique avant la mise en oeuvre de nouveau projets fédéraux. En outre, on envisage de plus en plus d'appliquer cette méthode aux projets de développement coopératif réalisés à l'étranger. Bien qu'elle ne découle pas directement de cette politique, l'enquête Berger constitue un exemple valable de cette approche. Cette enquête judiciaire, qui a duré trois ans, a étudié les conséquences sociales, économiques et écologiques de la construction d'un pipeline destiné à approvisionner les régions fortement peuplées du sud en pétrole et en gaz provenant du nord du Canada et de l'Alaska.

Le Canada se réjouit de ce que le PNUE encourage l'adoption de projets de développement sains. La Conférence sur la désertification, tenue à Nairobi du 29 août au 9 septembre 1977, constitue sans doute l'événement récent le plus significatif. La longue sécheresse qui a frappé le Sahel africain vers la fin des années 60 n'a pas manqué de graver dans l'esprit des membres de la communauté mondiale les conséquences fâcheuses d'une planification qui ne tient pas compte de la base des ressources naturelles. L'avancée du désert dans cette seule région a rendu inutilisables 650 000 kilomètres carrés de terre, jadis propice à l'agriculture et au pâturage. Le Programme de lutte contre la désertification, adopté par la Conférence, vise principalement, par le biais de mesures nationales et locales, à mettre fin à ce processus et, dans la mesure du possible, à utiliser le désert à des fins de mise en valeur. Il devrait s'ensuivre à plus long terme une amélioration des conditions de vie de 14 p. cent de la population mondiale qui habite les terres arides.

Nous reconnaissons que de nombreux pays aux prises avec des problèmes de désertification se trouvent aussi parmi les moins développés et que par conséquent, la collectivité internationale doit accepter sa responsabilité de mobiliser des ressources financières afin que les mesures qui s'imposent puissent être prises. Lors de la Conférence, un certain nombre de méthodes ont été proposées pour recueillir ces ressources indispensables. Le Canada est disposé à continuer à fournir une aide financière dans le cadre des programmes bilatéraux et multilatéraux existants. En juin dernier, le Canada a eu le privilège d'accueillir le Club des amis du Sahel, association officielle des principaux donateurs et des membres du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS). A cette réunion, le Club a adopté une stratégie de développement économique à long terme et un programme d'action pour la région du Sahel sujette à la sécheresse. La première étape du programme (1978-1982) coûtera, d'après les estimations, trois milliards de dollars. Le succès de ce genre de financement se mesurera suivant les résultats. L'aide officielle consentie à la région en 1976 s'est élevée à environ 860 millions de dollars, soit presque le double de l'aide fournie en 1973.

véhicules plus attirants de l'assistance au développement tant aux yeux des pays donateurs qu'à ceux des pays bénéficiaires. Leur plus grande efficacité n'est pas une fin en soi. Il s'agit d'un moyen d'attirer et de disposer des ressources supplémentaires. Ce que nous cherchons, c'est à accroître l'efficacité des mesures prises par tous les pays pour venir en aide aux pays en développement, ce qui doit rester l'objectif prioritaire de la communauté internationale.

3. Le programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Depuis la création du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement à la suite de la Conférence tenue à Stockholm en 1972, le Canada, convaincu de l'utilité du PNUE aux fins de sensibiliser le monde aux problèmes de l'environnement, l'appuie fermement. La déclaration est centrée sur la corrélation entre l'environnement et le développement et expose les grandes lignes des initiatives proposées par le Canada au Cinquième Conseil d'administration dans le but d'améliorer la qualité de la documentation du PNUE. La délégation du Canada a également mentionné la récente Conférence sur la désertification et a approuvé son plan d'action. Enfin, M. Small a annoncé que le Canada verserait \$1 million au Fonds pour l'environnement en 1978.

Le 20 octobre 1977, M. John Small, délégué du Canada à la Deuxième Commission, a fait la déclaration suivante:

L'environnement n'est pas un sujet qui prête à controverse. En fait, les questions écologiques ont le plus souvent été réglées par consensus dans les tribunes internationales. Cela signifie-t-il qu'on se désintéresse de ces questions? Bien au contraire. La délégation du Canada est d'avis qu'une telle attitude traduit la reconnaissance du caractère impératif des questions écologiques. Les ressources renouvelables et non renouvelables constituent le fondement même de la croissance et de la plupart des économies. Chaque pays, chaque région doit donc étudier attentivement les incidences des taux d'utilisation actuels et prévus des ressources renouvelables et non renouvelables ainsi que les effets de leur exploitation sur l'environnement.

Le fonctionnement du système écologique mondial est encore trop peu connu pour que nous puissions nous prononcer catégoriquement sur les limites extrêmes de la croissance. Néanmoins, il est clair que les ressources terrestres ne sont pas inépuisables et que, dans certains cas, la conservation et le développement planifié sont essentiels au maintien d'une expansion économique. En plus de se livrer à des recherches sur les contraintes et possibilités écologiques, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement a aussi stimulé la recherche dans ce domaine. Des études comme le programme sur "L'homme et la biosphère", réalisé sous les auspices de l'UNESCO, "L'avenir de l'économie mondiale" placé sous la direction de M. Massily Leontief, et "Projet 2000" conçu par le département des Affaires économiques et sociales, constituent d'importantes contributions à l'étude des conséquences que peut entraîner l'application de nouveaux modes de développement. La corrélation entre la pauvreté et les conditions écologiques déplorables est par trop manifeste pour que ne soient pas surtout axes sur elle les efforts en matière de développement.

Comme le Fonds est en mesure d'examiner et d'évaluer les activités tant multilatérales que bilatérales en matière de population dans le monde entier, ma délégation espère connaître sous peu les opinions du secrétariat du Fonds sur la stratégie à adopter à l'égard des activités interétatiques. Ma délégation tient à féliciter M. Salas et ses collègues de leurs réalisations et les encourage à poursuivre leurs travaux ainsi que leurs activités administratives.

Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE)

Mon pays vient de réaffirmer à la conférence annuelle pour les annonces de contributions son appui de longue date au Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance. La majeure contribution financière témoigne de notre fort appui aux activités du FISE et au leadership de M. Labouisse. Le Canada demeure convaincu que la fourniture des services essentiels constitue un élément important du processus de développement, principe adopté par le Conseil d'administration du FISE en 1976 et entériné par l'Assemblée. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Canada a participé activement à l'élaboration de la résolution sur l'Année internationale de l'enfant (AIE) qui a déjà été déposée. Nous espérons que ce Comité adoptera cette résolution par consensus, témoignant ainsi de toute la communauté internationale aux objectifs et buts de l'AIE, ainsi qu'à Mme Lim et à ses collègues.

Nous sommes également reconnaissants au FISE d'avoir si bien dirigé des préparatifs en vue de l'Année internationale de l'enfant. Cette Année spéciale influera sensiblement sur les programmes à développer socialement de nombreux pays ainsi que sur la sensibilisation de la communauté internationale à bon nombre des problèmes de nos sociétés respectives.

Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM)

La contribution du Canada au Programme alimentaire mondial, évaluée à \$150 millions pour 1977-1978, n'est que la dernière manifestation de notre appui constant aux activités du Programme. La démarche du Programme alimentaire mondial qui utilise les denrées pour le développement agricole et rural et le rôle qu'il joue en fournissant des secours d'urgence sont importants pour un nombre appréciable de pays. L'accent mis sur les problèmes des pays en développement les plus pauvres fait écho aux politiques nationales adoptées par le Canada en matière d'assistance au développement. À notre avis, nous devons reconnaître les réalisations passées et à venir du Programme alimentaire mondial et les appuyer car elles constituent un élément très utile des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies.

Pour terminer, la délégation du Canada participe activement à la restructuration des secteurs économiques et sociaux de notre système, notamment en ce qui concerne les questions et les aspects qui ont trait aux activités opérationnelles en matière de développement. À notre avis, les propositions à l'étude montrent clairement que nous pouvons améliorer sensiblement l'efficacité et le rendement de ces activités pour en faire des

et de l'évaluation des données disponibles sur des projets entrepris dans le passé et de constituer ainsi un réservoir d'expériences institutionnelles grâce auquel les programmes futurs pourront croître et progresser.

A mesure que progresseront les négociations concernant la reconstruction éventuelle des activités économiques et sociales du système des Nations Unies, nul doute que les ressources considérables du PNUD seront mises à contribution. Dans l'éventualité d'une réorganisation, une gestion saine et efficace des systèmes d'information s'avèrera encore plus importante.

Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies

Ma délégation continue à surveiller avec intérêt l'expansion du Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies et a pris acte de l'arrivée de nouveaux pays donateurs ainsi que de l'accroissement de 10 p. cent des ressources financières du Fonds en 1978. Nous sommes d'avis que le Fonds comble une lacune évidente des programmes d'assistance au développement en utilisant de nombreuses ressources existantes. Les résultats obtenus par le Fonds tout en maintenant les frais généraux à un niveau peu élevé sont particulièrement louables. Ils démontrent qu'il est manifestement possible de mettre au point de nouveaux mécanismes pour utiliser pleinement les ressources existantes.

Volontaires des Nations Unies

Le Programme des volontaires des Nations Unies est devenu utile et viable. Mon Gouvernement ne sous-estime pas son importance, car ce programme permet de fournir une assistance technique supplémentaire et constitue, dans de nombreux cas, une manifestation concrète de la coopération technique entre pays en développement. Ses avantages rejoignent non seulement sur les pays bénéficiaires, mais aussi sur les volontaires eux-mêmes.

Le mécanisme adopté par le Vingt-quatrième Conseil d'administration pour financer le programme pendant la période de transition est des plus appropriés étant donné qu'il montre que le programme a acquis une maturité et une réputation telles qu'un nombre croissant de pays bénéficiaires sont désireux de l'appuyer par leurs chiffres indicatifs de planification.

Fonds des Nations Unies pour les activités en matière de population (FNUAP)

Le FNUAP est maintenant une organisation établie et aguerrie qui joue un rôle important en tant que principal organisme de financement et de coordination des activités des Nations Unies en matière de population. Le nombre considérable de pays qui appuient ce Fonds indique l'importance de ses travaux pour l'ensemble des objectifs en matière de développement. A preuve, les projets entrepris ainsi que l'utilité du Fonds en tant que tribune permettant à tous les participants d'échanger des renseignements et de mettre en commun leur expérience.

La gestion des ressources financières du PNUD mérite à notre avis qu'on s'y arrête. L'utilisation productive des monnaies non convertibles accumulées depuis 1971 demeure un problème, malgré le volume appréciable de biens et de services achetés dans les pays avec ces devises. Pour participer de façon responsable au programme sous tous ses aspects multinationaux, il importe de fournir des ressources telles qu'elles puissent être utilisées entièrement pour les besoins du programme. Mon Gouvernement espère sincèrement que les Etats possédant des monnaies non convertibles qui se sont accumulées au PNUD et ceux dont les comptes indiquent des arriérés ne ménageront aucun effort pour nous assurer de leur entière participation aux programmes en prenant les mesures nécessaires pour supprimer ces problèmes. De plus, il est à espérer que les pays bénéficiaires assumeront toutes les responsabilités qui leur incombent quant au financement des programmes volontaires. Pour mon Gouvernement, l'acceptation de cette responsabilité montre l'importance que revêt pour les pays bénéficiaires la contribution du PNUD à leurs objectifs en matière de développement.

En tant qu'organisation intergouvernementale, le PNUD doit demeurer sensible à la situation économique mondiale. Le système de programmation par pays et ses chiffres indicatifs quinquennaux de planification exigent une gestion habile et prudente de toutes les ressources financières. Le PNUD doit veiller à incorporer à ses méthodes de gestion des politiques efficaces de gestion financière qui tiennent compte des fluctuations des devises à court et à moyen terme afin de permettre une utilisation optimale de ses ressources.

Comme tout autre organisme, le PNUD possède des ressources limitées. Seule leur utilisation rationnelle lui permettra d'obtenir de ses activités des résultats optimaux. Le Canada est heureux de participer au projet d'information sur les systèmes intégrés du PNUD et espère contribuer sous peu à l'accroissement et à l'expansion des données du PNUD en matière de gestion, ce qui renforcera l'aptitude de ce dernier à tirer le meilleur parti possible de ses ressources. Le projet a déjà démarré et mon Gouvernement a été assuré que le PNUD fournira l'aide administrative et financière ainsi que le personnel nécessaires.

Le Canada désire réitérer son appui au PNUD en tant qu'organisme central de financement du système des Nations Unies pour la coopération technique. L'appui général dont bénéficie ce programme de la part des pays industrialisés et en développement, sa structure organisationnelle, l'importance des effets sur le terrain, son utilisation d'un cycle de planification de la programmation par pays et son expérience de l'approche multidimensionnelle à la coopération technique, le rendent unique en son genre. Une gestion efficace est nécessaire pour tirer parti de ces avantages. À cet égard, le Canada est heureux de constater que le PNUD attribue davantage d'importance à l'évaluation, élément essentiel du cycle. Le Canada apprécie également les mesures prises pour accroître la capacité d'émagasiner de données du PNUD. En renforçant son rôle d'organisme central de financement et de coordination de l'assistance technique au sein du système des Nations Unies, le PNUD a accepté de se charger de la collecte

La déclaration du Canada faisait allusion aux importantes ressources consacrées aux différents programmes couverts par ce point et demandait à l'administrateur du PNUD de continuer à veiller à ce que leur utilisation donne des résultats. En particulier, il a été question de l'Année internationale de l'enfant (AIE), des problèmes financiers imputables à la non-convertibilité des devises et du nouveau système d'information de gestion mis en place par le PNUD avec l'aide du Canada.

Le 11 novembre 1977, M. John Small, délégué du Canada à la Deuxième Commission, déclarait ce qui suit:

Le présent débat permet de faire le point sur les aspects financiers et politiques des activités opérationnelles des Nations Unies pour le développement. Nous avons assisté fort heureusement cette année à une consolidation, à ces égards, de la plupart des programmes et des fonds étudiés dans le cadre du présent point de l'ordre du jour. Les résultats des récentes conférences pour les annonces de contributions au PNUD et au FISE indiquent qu'on disposera en 1978 de ressources considérables, même si elles ne sont pas tout à fait suffisantes.

Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)

En 1977, le PNUD a été soumis à une importante période d'appréciation, d'évaluation et de raffermissement. La crise financière de 1975, qui a influencé le débat l'an dernier, a été jugulée et des mesures correctives sont actuellement prises afin d'éliminer bon nombre de ses causes sous-jacentes. L'administrateur du Programme a demandé l'établissement de nouvelles lignes directrices en ce qui concerne les activités et le rôle futurs du PNUD; la résolution adoptée au vingt-quatrième Conseil d'administration représente d'ailleurs un pas dans cette direction. En outre, les principes directeurs du programme, le consensus de 1970 et la décision de 1975 touchant les dimensions nouvelles de la coopération technique ont été réaffirmés. Le Conseil d'administration du PNUD a de nouveau montré qu'il était capable d'adopter des politiques et des méthodes adaptées aux circonstances sans cesse en évolution sans miner les principes directeurs du Programme. La deuxième année du présent cycle de la programmation par pays entrepise par le PNUD s'ouvre donc dans un climat de confiance.

La Conférence de 1978 pour les annonces de contributions au PNUD a montré qu'un nombre considérable de pays donateurs souscrivent toujours à un accroissement de 14 p. cent au titre de l'actuel cycle de la programmation par pays, conformément à l'objectif établi. L'adhésion à ces lignes directrices permettra d'éliminer nombre de difficultés découlant des promesses de contributions valables pour une année seulement. Le Canada a respecté son engagement en versant 39 millions de dollars canadiens, ce qui représente une augmentation de 14.7 p. cent par rapport à notre contribution de 1977. Les ressources du PNUD, évaluées à plus de 569 millions de dollars américains pour 1978, répondront sensiblement aux besoins mondiaux en matière d'assistance technique. Ces ressources financières sont un gage manifeste et concret de la confiance que portent les gouvernements, y compris le mien, à M. Bradford Morse, administrateur du PNUD.

Il est également capital qu'au cours de la présente session nous parvenions à une décision sur les arrangements institutionnels à mettre en oeuvre au sein de l'ONU en ce qui concerne l'habitat. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères du Kenya, M. Waiyiki, exprimait l'avis général lorsqu'il répétait en plénière qu'il incombe à cette Assemblée de prendre une décision finale à ce sujet. Nous réitérons quant à nous notre appel en faveur d'un esprit de compromis. Si certaines délégations s'en tiennent rigoureusement à des préférences bien arrêtées qui soulèvent chez d'autres une vive opposition, les travaux de l'ONU dans ce domaine seront dès le départ entravés par un regrettable esprit de division. C'est d'ailleurs pourquoi les délégations du Canada et de la Suède ont proposé à la trente-troisième session de l'ECOSOC une solution de compromis que nous considérons alors comme la seule capable de faire le consensus des participants. Cette solution, ou une autre semblable, est peut-être encore la seule possible aujourd'hui. Il nous tarde d'en discuter avec toutes les autres délégations lorsque notre programme de travail nous permettra de nous consacrer plus entièrement à ce qui sera, croyons-nous, un effort décisif pour trancher cette question.

Une autre question qui nous tient à coeur, c'est celle de l'Année de l'enfant proclamée par l'Assemblée générale l'an dernier. Il faudrait au cours de la présente session adopter une résolution simple et nette, propre à assurer le succès continu de cette entreprise dont la valeur a été soulignée par l'excellent travail accompli par le FISE jusqu'ici. L'Année de l'enfant n'est pas une entreprise coûteuse sur le plan financier, mais elle aura certes dans chacun de nos pays un impact public qui ne peut que nous sensibiliser davantage aux problèmes nationaux et mondiaux et nous amener à participer plus activement aux travaux de l'ONU en général et au processus du développement en particulier.

Nous sommes particulièrement heureux que vous puissiez diriger d'une main sûre cette importante session de la Deuxième Commission et qu'une fois de plus, les membres du bureau jouissent de la confiance et de l'admiration de toutes les délégations, dont à coup sûr la délégation du Canada. Nous pensons que nous pouvons faire beaucoup d'ici la fin de décembre. Nous avons écouté avec le plus grand intérêt le discours prononcé devant ce comité par le Dr. Perez-Guerrero. Nous partageons son avis que les Nations Unies ont en ce moment l'occasion de réaliser une oeuvre d'une importance primordiale. A cet égard, la délégation du Canada joindra ses efforts à ceux des autres délégations pour atteindre les objectifs que nous partageons au chapitre du progrès et des réalisations concrètes.

2. Les activités opérationnelles pour le développement

Le débat annuel de la Deuxième Commission sur les activités opérationnelles pour le développement porte sur plusieurs des principaux programmes de l'ONU dans le domaine de l'aide au développement. Le Canada participe activement à ces programmes, dont il est l'un des principaux cotisants, qui comprennent le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE) et le Fonds des Nations Unies pour les activités en matière de population (FNUAP).

Dans ce contexte, notre tâche principale sera l'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement. À notre avis, cette stratégie doit constituer un plan réaliste, bien adapté aux conditions fondamentales dans les pays en développement. Elle devrait aussi, naturellement, servir de document cadre aux relations Nord-Sud et ouvrir la voie du progrès vers un nouvel ordre économique international plus équitable. Document qui devra mériter la faveur du public, il lui faudra être souple et orienter à long terme les mesures et les moyens qui permettront au système mondial d'accélérer le processus de développement. À la présente session, nous devons prendre les mesures fonctionnelles nécessaires à l'élaboration de cette stratégie au cours des quelques prochaines années. Comme il importe de préparer aussitôt que possible la documentation et les analyses nécessaires, il convient de décider sans délai de l'orientation fondamentale de cette stratégie et prévoir des réunions intergouvernementales à ce sujet l'an prochain.

À la faveur du point 67 de l'ordre du jour, nous pourrions au cours de la présente session poursuivre le travail commencé dans plusieurs secteurs spécifiques des relations économiques Nord-Sud. Des propositions ont d'ailleurs été présentées pour que l'ONU se penche sur diverses questions vitales discutées lors de la Conférence sur la coopération économique internationale. Par exemple, il est certainement possible d'envisager des moyens de faire progresser la coopération à la recherche et à la planification dans le secteur de l'énergie. D'autres questions pressantes sont également portées à notre attention dans le secteur du commerce et du développement, notamment le volume et la quantité de l'aide au développement, les mécanismes du système, l'accès aux marchés et la coopération technique.

Naturellement, le succès de notre action dépendra de notre aptitude à faire du système des Nations Unies un instrument qui se prête mieux à la discussion des questions critiques et à la mise en oeuvre des programmes de développement. Nous espérons vivement que la restructuration en cours sera soutenue par la volonté nécessaire pour la mener à bonne fin, de sorte que nous puissions au cours des prochaines semaines nous entendre sur une réforme constructive. Nous aimerions ici rendre un hommage particulier au président du Comité spécial de la restructuration, l'ambassadeur Ken Dazie, dont les efforts inlassables marqueront pendant longtemps encore le fonctionnement de notre organisation.

La Conférence mondiale sur la science et la technique, qui doit se tenir bientôt, devrait elle aussi marquer un important jalon dans les relations Nord-Sud. Nous sommes heureux à ce propos de prendre connaissance du rapport du Secrétaire général, M. Da Costa, et nous félicitons ce dernier des efforts qu'il déploie pour donner à cette conférence une ampleur conforme à nos attentes. Au cours de la présente session, la délégation du Canada s'efforcera d'aider M. Da Costa à activer les préparatifs de la Conférence et compte énormément sur le succès de la réunion qui doit se tenir à cet effet à Genève en janvier prochain. Nous comptons en outre sur la contribution qu'apportera la Conférence sur la coopération technique entre les pays en développement.

s'avérer plus difficile que prévu de procéder rapidement à des déboursements de fonds destinés à l'aide au développement. Ce problème vaut tout autant pour l'aide multilatérale, à laquelle le Canada consacre plus d'un tiers de son budget actuel d'aide qui s'élève à 1.1 milliard de dollars pour la présente année financière. Malgré tout, les difficultés que nous rencontrons au chapitre des débours ne devraient en aucune façon nous décourager de fournir des efforts encore plus grands.

A ce propos, je voudrais endosser la déclaration du représentant de la FAO selon laquelle le FIDA a besoin, à titre d'appoint, d'une aide bilatérale soutenue dans le domaine du développement agricole, qui demeure un champ privilégié pour les programmes d'aide canadiens. Les bonnes récoltes des trois dernières années ne devraient pas obvier à la nécessité de tout mettre en œuvre pour instaurer une sécurité alimentaire mondiale que nous ne pourrions réaliser que grâce à une approche tridimensionnelle: constitution de stocks régulateurs pour se protéger d'éventuelles mauvaises récoltes; intensification du développement agricole et aide alimentaire pour faire face aux pénuries immédiates.

Nous encourageons tous les pays en mesure d'offrir un appui matériel aux pays en développement à le faire. Certains pays, semble-t-il, se jugent dispensés de cette obligation du fait qu'ils ne figurent pas parmi les anciennes puissances coloniales. Encore qu'un tel argument soit discutable, son plus grand tort est d'être tout à fait insensible à l'urgence du développement. L'unique expérience directe de mon pays en matière de colonisation fut d'être colonisé. Pourtant, nous reconnaissons et acceptons la responsabilité, voire même le privilège, de participer au processus de développement pour le bien-être de toute l'humanité. La considération majeure qui doit prévaloir, c'est l'obligation que nous avons vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale d'œuvrer pour l'avènement d'un système économique mondial ordonné, juste et équitable, non seulement en cas d'urgence, mais dans le cadre d'un processus perpétuel de changement. En même temps, nous devons nous concentrer, à plus court terme, sur l'aide directe au développement afin d'aider les peuples les plus démunis des pays en développement et les nations les moins nanties. Le Canada est déterminé à aller de l'avant pour atteindre l'objectif de 0.7 cent et nous incitons tous les autres pays en mesure de le faire à s'orienter dans la même direction.

Pour répondre aux besoins des pays en développement à l'égard de ressources supplémentaires, le gouvernement du Canada a converti en dons tous les prêts qui avaient été faits à un certain nombre de pays parmi les moins développés, jusqu'à un montant dépassant un quart de milliard de dollars. En plus, l'aide officielle du gouvernement du Canada aux pays les moins développés est maintenant entièrement sous forme de dons. C'est donc avec un grand intérêt que nous avons écouté les remarques du ministre du Développement de la Suède concernant les intentions de son pays à cet égard.

Au cours des quelques prochaines années, nous devons élaborer une stratégie globale afin de surmonter les problèmes fondamentaux que pose le processus de développement et harmoniser ce dernier avec le système et les conditions économiques extérieures. Nous avons beaucoup progressé au cours des dernières décennies, et plus particulièrement ces quelques dernières années, mais les gestes les plus durables de la communauté internationale à l'égard des pays en développement sont encore à poser.

Ce dilemme d'ordre général mis à part, il est difficile d'évaluer quel progrès ont été accomplis jusqu'à maintenant. Du côté des réalisations, tout le monde sait qu'au cours des derniers vingt-cinq ans, l'ensemble des pays en développement ont progressé vers l'industrialisation grâce à un développement économique et social sans précédent dans l'histoire. Pourtant, les nations les moins nanties du monde, où vit la moitié de la population de la planète, ont vu leur taux de croissance décliner pendant la première moitié de la présente décennie. C'est une question de perception: à certains moments, le verre semble à moitié plein, et à d'autres, à moitié vide.

Il est essentiel que nous conservions une perspective planétaire et non seulement nationale. Il convient de faire des efforts pour tenir compte des problèmes et des points de vue des autres pays. Facteur plus important encore, chacun d'entre nous doit tenter, chaque fois que c'est possible, d'éviter d'avoir recours à des mesures nationalistes et protectionnistes. De telles tendances ont fait surface récemment: il faut les décourager. Il importe d'accélérer l'élan déjà pris à la libéralisation progressive des échanges mondiaux. C'est uniquement dans une telle optique qu'on pourra opérer des réformes structurelles suffisamment productives pour assurer de meilleures chances aux pays en développement. Voilà pourquoi mon gouvernement continue d'attacher beaucoup de prix aux négociations commerciales multilatérales. Il semblerait qu'au cours des prochains mois, ces discussions prendront l'élan qui, pour une foule de raisons, leur faisait défaut. La Déclaration de Tokyo inclut, parmi les objectifs explicites des pourparlers, l'amélioration de la position des pays en développement au niveau des échanges.

Les négociations qui auront lieu en novembre sur la création d'un fonds commun représenteront une étape importante du dialogue Nord-Sud. Mais on ne devrait pas sous-estimer pour autant les difficultés inhérentes à ces négociations qui doivent être tenues à Genève. L'objet des débats est à la fois nouveau et complexe. Si l'on veut que ce fonds commun ait une valeur durable pour ceux auxquels il est destiné, il faudra veiller à l'asseoir sur des bases solides. Notre position a été exposée clairement par M. MacLachlan lors de la reprise de la trente et unième session de l'Assemblée générale, lorsqu'il a dit que nous souhaitons le succès de ces pourparlers et que nous allons oeuvrer activement dans ce but.

Au sujet du transfert des ressources, les engagements que nous avons pris à la Conférence de Paris, tant au chapitre du programme d'action spéciale d'un milliard de dollars que de l'aide publique au développement, sont importants. L'expérience du Canada au chapitre de la coopération en matière de développement remonte à plusieurs années. Ces dernières années, la stratégie canadienne a mis l'accent sur les besoins des pays les moins favorisés. Environ 80 p. cent de notre aide bilatérale est destinée à des pays dont le revenu annuel par habitant s'élève à moins de \$200. Notre expérience de collaboration avec ces nations a été particulièrement inhérente au processus de développement. S'il est vrai que nous avons réalisé des gains, les défis encore à relever sont écrasants. En outre, à l'instar de nos amis dans ces pays, nous nous sommes rendus compte qu'il peut

1. Le dialogue Nord-Sud et la trente-deuxième session

Dans son premier discours à la Deuxième Commission le Canada s'est surtout arrêté sur le bilan qu'il faisait du dialogue Nord-Sud, soulignant les résultats positifs de la Conférence sur la coopération économique internationale et la nécessité de concrétiser les ententes conclues. Il a également signalé la possibilité d'entreprendre d'autres discussions au sein des Nations Unies et d'autres tribunes dans les domaines où la Conférence de Paris n'a pas réalisé de consensus. Tout en reconnaissant les difficultés des négociations en cours (notamment les négociations commerciales multilatérales, le fonds commun pour le programme intégré pour les produits de base et l'allègement de la dette), le Canada reste déterminé à oeuvrer pour le succès de ces négociations. En outre, il a déclaré souhaiter l'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie de développement international qui, à son avis, devrait établir des lignes directrices permettant d'accélérer le processus de développement à l'échelle internationale. La déclaration portait également sur d'autres questions à l'ordre du jour, tels la restructuration, la Conférence mondiale sur la science et la technique au service du développement, les arrangements institutionnels concernant les établissements humains et l'Année internationale de l'enfant.

Le 4 octobre 1977, Dr John Small, délégué du Canada à la Deuxième Commission, déclarait ce qui suit:

Comme l'a fait remarquer le distingué Sous-secrétaire général au début de notre débat, les travaux de la présente Commission à sa trente-deuxième session pourraient revêtir une importance considérable. Nous sommes à un tournant critique des relations Nord-Sud. Même si la Conférence de Paris a donné lieu à des ententes qui ont fait progresser le dialogue, certaines questions sont réapparues à l'ordre du jour des organes de l'ONU. C'est à nous qu'il incombe de trouver des moyens de poursuivre sur cette lancée.

Nous espérons que nous pourrions nous concentrer sur des solutions pratiques. Il ne faut pas se cacher que nous sommes en quelque sorte dans un dilemme. D'une part, nous sommes tous fermement déterminés à faire avancer rapidement les relations Nord-Sud, mais d'autre part, la léthargie qui continue de caractériser la conjoncture économique dans le monde en général, et en particulier dans certains pays industrialisés, rend fort ardue cette entreprise.

Il va de soi que si les conditions économiques sont défavorables dans les pays industriels, on peut s'attendre à pire encore dans de nombreux pays en développement. Nous ne pouvons espérer que ces pays attendent patiemment que survienne une reprise de l'économie mondiale pour qu'on prenne des mesures en leur faveur, particulièrement si leur propre situation se détériore. Pourtant, en même temps, il est clair que l'absence d'une relance de l'économie entrave notre capacité d'entreprendre une action d'envergure.

A ce sujet, j'aimerais rappeler qu'à l'alinéa 77 du rapport du comité principal, il a été fait mention du souhait exprimé à l'effet que les gouvernements soumettent au Secrétaire leurs projets et recommandations touchant la conférence envisagée dans les meilleurs délais. Si ces recommandations et projets étaient soumis en temps voulu, c'est-à-dire, un certain temps avant les réunions consécutives du Sous-comité scientifique et technique et du groupe de travail prévues pour le mois de février 1978, il serait vraisemblablement possible malgré les inevitables pressions exercées en raison du temps disponible, de préparer un rapport détaillé.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais faire une brève allusion à un passage du discours prononcé le 21 novembre par le distingué président du Comité sur l'utilisation de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, l'ambassadeur Jankowitsch, lors de l'ouverture de nos débats. Il avait souligné, à ce moment-là, le fait que le Comité sur l'espace extra-atmosphérique ne constituait pas un "club exclusif" représentant d'États appartenant aux pays industrialisés. Je tiens à reprendre ce thème et à lancer un appel en faveur d'une participation sans cesse accrue aux travaux de ce comité de la part des autres États membres, surtout ceux qui appartiennent aux pays en développement. En réalité, nombre de pays ont déjà saisi l'occasion de participer aux travaux du comité principal et de ses deux sous-comités, à titre d'observateurs. Nous désirons, en conséquence, apporter notre appui à la résolution présentée par la délégation de l'Autriche demandant qu'une étude soit entreprise par le Comité de l'espace atmosphérique lui-même, portant sur les moyens propres à favoriser une participation plus générale des États à ses travaux, qu'il s'agisse d'augmenter le nombre de ses membres ou de recourir à d'autres moyens. En disant ceci, je ne perds pas de vue que l'une des raisons qui ont favorisé un rendement efficace de notre Comité jusqu'à ce jour réside précisément dans le fait que la représentation numérique de ses membres, tout en étant conforme au principe d'une répartition géographique équitable, n'en demeure pas moins suffisamment souple.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais préciser que ma délégation sera heureuse de coparrainer la résolution d'ensemble sur les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique telle qu'elle a été présentée cet après-midi par la délégation de l'Autriche. Cette résolution expose avec précision les deux points qui ont servi de thème à mes propos, à savoir notre grande satisfaction face au travail accompli, mais aussi notre préoccupation sur ce qui reste à faire. Je dois cependant ajouter, à ce propos, que la délégation est convaincue que de grands progrès pourront être réalisés au cours de l'année 1978 et qu'elle est prête à appuyer activement tous les efforts déployés dans l'accomplissement de cette tâche.

ont été présentées - devrait à notre avis traduire l'équilibre à maintenir entre la nécessité de garantir le maximum d'avantages à la communauté internationale et la nécessité de sauvegarder les intérêts nationaux légitimes.

On enregistre également des progrès sur les plans technique et scientifique: les radars sont de plus en plus perfectionnés et les domaines d'application des données de télédétection se révèlent sans cesse plus nombreux. Mais, aux niveaux politique et organisationnel les progrès restent insuffisants. Lors de la dernière réunion du comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, plusieurs délégations ont manifesté leur inquiétude devant le manque de coordination des efforts déployés par un nombre croissant de pays dans le domaine de la télédétection. La délégation du Canada a donc proposé, ce dont a convenu le Comité, que le Sous-comité scientifique et technique accorde une priorité absolue aux questions relatives à la coordination des activités de télédétection à l'échelle mondiale. C'était là une mesure positive, mais qui perdrait tout son sens si nous ne parvenons pas à définir de façon plus précise ce que nous attendons de la télédétection et si nous n'établissons pas de plan pour atteindre notre objectif. A ce sujet, il est intéressant de noter que dans son rapport, le Sous-comité scientifique et technique encourage les pays qui prévoient utiliser de nouveaux systèmes de télédétection à s'assurer que ceux-ci sont compatibles avec ceux qui existent déjà et qu'ils doivent compléter. On a également déjà proposé de mettre sur pied un ou plusieurs systèmes de satellites internationaux dont la coordination serait assurée par un organisme mondiale. Est-ce une bonne idée? Peut-être, mais il est impossible de l'affirmer. Je veux dire par là que dans les circonstances actuelles, nous devons chercher de nouvelles idées et faire preuve d'imagination, sinon, les problèmes auxquels nous faisons face deviendront insolubles. Les efforts déployés par les Nations Unies pour supprimer les obstacles qui ont séparé les nations pendant des années risqueront d'être vains si nous sommes incapables d'éviter la division dans ce nouveau domaine en expansion.

Ma délégation constate avec plaisir que des progrès sérieux ont été accomplis au cours de la dernière session du Sous-comité scientifique et technique en matière de définition technique des termes se rapportant à la télédétection, y compris de ce qu'on entend par "données" et "renseignements". Si, malheureusement, le Sous-comité juridique n'a pu utiliser ces termes en cherchant à s'entendre sur le régime juridique qui gouverne la télédétection, il faut, néanmoins se réjouir de ce que le comité principal, lors de sa réunion à Vienne au mois de juin, ait pris une décision à ce sujet, reproduite à l'alinéa 39 de son rapport.

Ma délégation est également heureuse de constater l'intérêt que soulève la question de la tenue d'une deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Il s'agit là, selon nous, d'une question qui nécessite un examen plus coordonné avec d'autres conférences, du moment auquel elle devrait avoir lieu et de son organisation technique et financière. La constitution d'un groupe de travail du Sous-comité scientifique et technique chargé d'étudier ces questions représente un important pas en avant; nous sommes d'ailleurs impatients de jouer un rôle constructif au sein de ce groupe, sous la direction éclairée de M. Carver.

s'intensifier. Il s'est produit un certain nombre de faits au cours des douze derniers mois, mais le plus important a peut-être été les discussions entreprises en vue d'étudier la possibilité de mettre au point un programme conjoint ayant pour but d'installer un système expérimental de recherche et de sauvetage par satellite qui viendrait compléter les méthodes utilisées actuellement pour le repérage des aéronefs et des navires en détresse. Plusieurs autres pays s'intéressent à cette expérience qui, peut-être, donnera naissance à un projet coopératif vraiment international.

J'aimerais maintenant parler du rapport du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Je crois, ainsi que je l'ai déjà dit, que le Comité a beaucoup accompli. Je me rappelle néanmoins, m'être efforcé, l'an dernier, au cours de mon exposé sur ce même point de l'ordre du jour, de vous convaincre de l'urgence de la situation et avoir déclaré que, faute de nouveaux progrès, les percées technologiques et les attentes des peuples feraient perdre toute raison d'être à notre débat. Ma délégation est heureuse de voir qu'en dépit de ce qui reste encore à faire, certains progrès ont effectivement été accomplis depuis l'an dernier. Nous devons, à notre avis, nous attaquer en priorité à deux domaines, dont l'utilisation des satellites aux fins de la télévision directe.

Malgré les efforts déployés par le Sous-comité juridique et un groupe de travail du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, il n'a pas été possible d'établir en 1977 un projet complet de principes régissant l'utilisation de satellites aux fins de télévision directe. La Conférence administrative mondiale de radiocommunications (CAMR) tenue à Genève cette année doit retenir l'attention du Sous-comité juridique dans son étude de la question. Cette conférence, au cours de laquelle ont été élaborés des projets détaillés en vue d'un service de télédiffusion par satellite sur la bande de 12 GHz, est partie du principe que la diffusion délibérée à l'étranger exige l'assentiment du pays récepteur.

Lors de la seizième session du Sous-comité juridique, le Canada et la Suède ont présenté conjointement un projet de principes qui, révisé et intitulé "Consultation et accords", était accompagné d'un projet de préambule. Ces textes, qui s'inscrivent dans le droit fil de la Conférence mondiale des radiocommunications, ont servi de base aux négociations entreprises au sein du Sous-comité juridique et du Comité des utilisations pacifiques. Les délégations du Canada et de la Suède ont pressé ces derniers d'adopter des textes de compromis qui représentent un équilibre réel entre la nécessité de faciliter l'avènement progressif d'une nouvelle ère technologique et le besoin de protéger les droits souverains que possèdent les États de réglementer leurs systèmes de communications. Le Canada est convaincu que, lors que la prochaine session du Sous-comité juridique, les textes élaborés à New York et améliorés à Vienne permettront de jeter les bases d'un consensus sur un ensemble complet de principes.

La télédétection est un autre domaine auquel le Canada s'intéresse de près. Un cadre juridique pouvant régir la téléobservation de la terre par satellite est en bonne voie de réalisation. Ce cadre - basé principalement sur la mise en évidence "d'éléments communs" parmi les propositions qui nous

La déclaration suivante a été faite par M. William H. Barton, représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies, devant la Première Commission, le 23 novembre 1977.

Je suis heureux de prendre à nouveau la parole devant cette commission pour communiquer les vues du Canada sur les deux points de l'ordre du jour soumis à notre étude, à savoir le rapport du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique et l'élaboration de principes pour régir l'utilisation de satellites aux fins de la télévision directe. Ma délégation est d'avis que ces points revêtent une importance particulière et espère que notre débat permettra de trouver des solutions aux questions soulevées.

En cette année d'anniversaire, j'estime qu'il serait approprié et

peut-être salubre de souligner nos réalisations des dernières années. vingt ans se sont écoulés depuis la création du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique et depuis la mise en orbite du premier satellite. Depuis, l'homme a marché sur la Lune et cherche à découvrir les secrets du système solaire et des autres galaxies. Ces remarquables poussées scientifiques dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique ne sont pas restées isolées car, sur terre, on s'est activement employé à codifier le droit international dans ce domaine. Nous célébrons cette année le dixième anniversaire de l'entrée en vigueur du Traité sur l'espace extra-atmosphérique; trois autres instruments juridiques internationaux sont également appliqués. Ces réalisations ont montré que le comité est un instrument utile pour la solution d'importantes questions d'intérêt pour les Etats membres, ce dont je crois, nous pouvons à juste titre nous enorgueillir.

Le programme spatial canadien a été amélioré au cours des vingt dernières années et compte certaines réussites à son actif. Voilà en effet quinze ans, le Canada lançait Alouette I, de conception et de construction canadiennes et devenait ainsi le troisième pays à mettre un satellite sur orbite. Par la suite, les réalisations canadiennes aux chapitres de la recherche spatiale, des télécommunications, de la télédétection et des autres applications des techniques spatiales se sont multipliées. Comme nous avons déjà fait rapport au Comité sur ces questions, je ne les énumérerai pas à nouveau ici.

J'aimerais cependant réitérer l'engagement permanent du Canada à collaborer toujours plus activement à l'élaboration de nouvelles techniques et de nouveaux programmes avec d'autres pays. Depuis notre dernier rapport à cette commission, le Canada et l'Agence spatiale européenne ont cherché, de concert, des moyens d'accroître leur coopération. Le Centre canadien de télédétection a signé des accords avec l'Agence spatiale européenne et le Centre national d'études spatiales de France en vue d'échanger des renseignements et du personnel et de poursuivre les programmes établis conjointement. A la suite d'entretiens tenus aux niveaux supérieurs, des liens ont été établis avec les autorités spatiales japonaises compétentes pour l'échange de renseignements et le recensement de domaines précis et concrets de coopération. Enfin, la coopération que nous avons établie avec notre principal partenaire spatial, les Etats-Unis, continue de

Permettez-moi maintenant d'attirer votre attention sur trois points du rapport qui peuvent présenter un intérêt particulier:

1. Le tableau 3 du rapport présenté à l'Assemblée générale qui donne une perspective utile en ce qu'il compare les doses engagées provenant de huit sources auxquelles les populations sont exposées, y compris les explosions nucléaires du dernier quart de siècle.

2. La prévision selon laquelle une année de production d'énergie nucléaire au taux prévu pour l'an 2000 correspondrait à une exposition de la population qui équivaldrait à 4% de celle provenant de sources naturelles.

3. Les contributions dues aux explosions nucléaires réalisées après la période qui faisaient l'objet du dernier rapport du Comité (1970-1976) ont augmenté les doses engagées dues au strontium-90 et au caesium-137 d'environ 2% pour l'hémisphère nord et d'environ 6% pour l'hémisphère sud.

Le gouvernement du Canada considère comme très importants les travaux de la Commission scientifique. Ils nous ont donné une façon rationnelle d'évaluer l'effet des polluants de l'environnement qui nous servira non seulement maintenant mais aussi à l'avenir. Comme ce problème persistera et peut-être s'accroîtra, le Comité nous sera utile. Au nom de mon Gouvernement, je recommande à la Commission politique spéciale d'approuver la résolution introduite par le distingué représentant de la République socialiste de Tchécoslovaquie afin que les travaux de la Commission scientifique puissent se poursuivre.

12. Les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique

En sa qualité de membre du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique et en tant que pays engagé lui-même dans la mise en oeuvre de programmes spatiaux, le Canada porte un intérêt particulier aux travaux des Nations Unies sur les questions relatives à l'espace extra-atmosphérique.

L'apport du Canada à l'élaboration de principes régissant la technologie spatiale a été important, spécialement dans les domaines de la radio-diffusion directe par satellite (au sujet desquels le Canada travaille en étroite collaboration avec la Suède depuis plusieurs années) et de la télédétection des ressources techniques depuis l'espace. Notre délégation a présenté des propositions précises destinées à résoudre les problèmes dont le Comité est encore saisi.

De l'avis du Canada, il est urgent que les membres des Nations Unies poursuivent leurs efforts en vue d'arriver à un cadre juridique sur la réglementation de cette technologie en plein progrès, afin d'éviter les conflits ou controverses susceptibles d'être provoqués par des abus. De plus, il faudra tenter de remédier au manque de coordination entre les efforts d'un nombre croissant de pays dans le domaine de la télédétection.

Permettez-moi de vous remercier de cette occasion qui est offerte à la délégation du Canada de formuler certains commentaires sur les travaux du Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnements ionisants. C'est en 1972 que le Comité a présenté son dernier rapport détaillé. Depuis, un certain nombre de changements sont survenus au niveau du soutien du Comité. Ainsi, Dr Sella d'Italie a quitté son poste de secrétaire pour assumer celui d'administrateur du Système mondial de surveillance continue de l'environnement à Nairobi. Son remplaçant, Dr Beninson d'Argentine, sert le Comité avec distinction. Le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement assure maintenant le financement et l'administration du Comité. Le Secrétariat a déplacé son siège de New York à Vienne où il occupe des bureaux de l'ONUDI.

La collaboration étroite et nouvelle entre le Comité et le Programme pour l'environnement semble harmonieuse et fructueuse. Dans l'allocution qu'il prononçait en avril lors d'une réunion du Comité, Dr Tolba, directeur général du PNUÉ déclarait que son organisme comptait accorder au Comité toute l'aide essentielle et organisationnelle possible. Le PNUÉ a demandé au Comité de fournir des documents relatifs aux critères applicables à certains contaminants radioactifs de l'environnement. Cette question sera au nombre des préoccupations du Comité au cours des prochaines années.

Le rapport de 1977, d'une très grande qualité, est l'un des documents les plus complets à ce jour sur le sujet. Tout comme le rapport de 1972, il traite respectivement:

- Des effets des rayonnements, y compris les effets cancérogènes et génétiques, et de leur incidence sur le développement prénatal;

- Des niveaux d'exposition aux rayonnements: sources naturelles, technologie de pointe, produits de consommation, énergie nucléaire, explosions nucléaires et applications médicales.

Le rapport présenté à l'Assemblée générale est étayé de deux annexes scientifiques portant sur chacune de ces deux questions.

Le rapport contient de nouvelles données qui serviront non seulement aux scientifiques, mais à tous ceux qui, comme vous, se préoccupent des dangers que présente pour l'homme une exposition aux rayonnements ionisants. Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, j'aimerais maintenant rendre hommage au Dr M. Klimek de la République socialiste de Tchécoslovaquie, président de la Commission scientifique, au professeur F.E. Stieve de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, vice-président et au Dr K. Sundaram de l'Inde, rapporteur des vingt-quatrième et vingt-cinquième sessions, qui ont dirigé nos travaux avec une compétence admirable et préparé le rapport que nous avons présentement devant nous.

En même temps, nous reconnaissons pleinement le risque que pourrait comporter la fabrication éventuelle de ces nouvelles armes; nous sommes disposés à appuyer une résolution enjoignant les Etats de ne pas mettre au point de telles armes et demandant à la Conférence de Genève d'étudier la possibilité d'élaborer des accords internationaux dans des cas précis.

Sans diminuer pour autant l'importance que le Canada attache aux problèmes posés par les armes de destruction massive, nous sommes convaincus que la communauté internationale doit maintenant se pencher sur un problème trop longtemps ignoré, celui des armes conventionnelles, de leur production et de leur transfert. La Session extraordinaire devra prendre l'initiative de déterminer les voies qu'il y a lieu d'explorer à cet égard. On ne peut espérer réaliser le désarmement complet ou s'approcher de cet objectif sans s'attaquer au problème des armes conventionnelles et des transferts de plus en plus massifs de telles armes, notamment des plus perfectionnées.

J'ai tenté de cerner certaines des possibilités les plus prometteuses qui semblent enfin être à notre portée, particulièrement dans les domaines de la limitation des armes stratégiques, de l'interdiction totale des essais nucléaires et de la conclusion d'un traité sur les armes chimiques. Indissociables de la question fondamentale de la conception que les Etats se font de leurs intérêts en matière de sécurité, le contrôle des armes et le désarmement sont des objectifs dont la poursuite a donné lieu à beaucoup de frustrations. L'absence de progrès réels nous place devant un danger grave et immédiat. De surcroît, étant appelés à faire une meilleure utilisation de nos ressources, nous devons reprendre notre tâche avec plus de détermination que jamais.

Nous devons nous attacher à examiner avec un esprit aussi analytique et objectif que possible les problèmes que j'ai soulevés. L'émotion ne nous sera d'aucun secours pour bien saisir la complexité et l'ampleur du défi que représente le désarmement, ni pour trouver des moyens efficaces de le réaliser. Pourtant, nous ne devons jamais perdre de vue l'ultime objectif qui sous-tend nos efforts - assurer la sécurité de tous, d'abord par la réduction, puis par l'élimination des risques de guerre. Pouvons-nous oser espérer être aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, sur le point de faire une percée d'envergure dans ce secteur vital?

11. Le comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnements ionisants

Le Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnements ionisants a présenté un rapport exhaustif lors de la trente-deuxième session de l'Assemblée générale. Le rapport a été débattu devant la Commission politique spéciale. Le 18 octobre 1977, M. Gordon Butler, membre du Conseil national de recherches du Canada et du Comité scientifique, a donné la position du Canada dans le discours suivant, prononcé devant la Commission politique spéciale:

Evidemment, un groupe aussi large ne peut entreprendre des négociations sur des mesures précises ou des traités. Pour en arriver là, les organismes de négociation appropriés, notamment la Conférence du désarmement de Genève, devront fournir des efforts considérables. D'ailleurs, nous avons de bonnes raisons de croire que la Conférence est sur le point de connaître un renouveau d'activités et qu'elle jouera un rôle important. La Session extraordinaire nous donnera sans doute également l'occasion de faire une réévaluation générale des problèmes et des possibilités, ainsi que du rapport existant entre, d'une part, le désarmement, la paix et la sécurité mondiale et, d'autre part, le développement économique.

Mon pays, l'un des promoteurs de la Session extraordinaire, s'est engagé à y participer activement et à assurer le succès de ses délibérations.

Dans ce tour d'horizon des faits marquants de l'année qui vient de s'écouler, il ne faut pas omettre la signature du Traité sur l'interdiction de modifier l'environnement à des fins hostiles par plus de trente gouvernements et le succès de la Conférence d'examen des parties au Traité sur le fond des mers et des océans. Comme nous le savons tous, ces traités dont la portée est limitée ne visent que des domaines hypothétiques de la réglementation des armements. Cependant, s'ils ne se rapportent pas directement à la question centrale du désarmement, ils n'en méritent pas moins notre appui en tant que mesures complémentaires souhaitables. Certes, leur négociation ne doit pas nous faire perdre de vue la nécessité d'adopter d'autres mesures répondant à des problèmes plus urgents: très peu de saisis l'occasion qui nous est offerte maintenant de négocier des mesures beaucoup plus importantes comme l'interdiction totale des essais nucléaires et la convention sur les armes chimiques.

Ces deux dernières années, la Conférence de Genève a aussi étudié de près les meilleurs moyens d'empêcher la fabrication et le déploiement de ce que l'on appelle les "nouvelles armes de destruction massives", c'est-à-dire, les catégories d'armes du futur, dont les effets seraient analogues à ceux des armements de destruction massive que nous connaissons déjà trop bien. Nous sommes d'avis que ces délibérations ont contribué à mettre en lumière les difficultés qu'on éprouve à formuler une définition que je qualifierais de globale. Il faut avouer qu'il en est résulté une grande confusion quant à la nature de ces armes non encore inventées qui seraient couvertes par un traité. Toute tentative d'en arriver à un traité global à partir d'une notion aussi mal définie soulève de sérieux problèmes quant à savoir ce qui serait en fait interdit et de quelle façon vérifier le respect des interdictions. Nous notons que l'Union soviétique a présenté un projet de révision qui jette un peu de lumière sur certains points obscurs relevés par un bon nombre de pays dans la version originale. Toutefois, à la suite de l'analyse poussée de ce problème faite par la Conférence du désarmement de Genève, mon gouvernement est convaincu que des obstacles d'ordre pratique nuisent sérieusement à la mise en oeuvre de la proposition soviétique sous forme de traité. Nous croyons, en somme, que la meilleure façon de procéder est d'envisager, le cas échéant, des accords qui interdiraient le recours à certaines catégories de nouvelles armes de destruction massive dans le cas où ces armes pourraient être déterminées avec précision.

il faudrait en arriver, par voie de traité, à une interdiction totale de tous les essais nucléaires. L'utilité des explosions pacifiques est suffisamment douteuse pour qu'on ne laisse pas une telle utilisation de l'énergie atomique venir entraver la réalisation d'un objectif auquel l'Assemblée a déjà accordé la plus haute priorité.

Nous espérons que la phase essentielle que représentent les négociations bilatérales dans la conclusion d'un traité sur la non-prolifération sera menée à bien suffisamment rapidement pour permettre à la Conférence de Genève sur le désarmement d'aborder les négociations multilatérales. Nous estimons que la conclusion d'un tel traité devra se faire sur la base d'une adhésion aussi large que possible de façon à cerner le problème dans toute son ampleur, du point de vue qualitatif et quantitatif.

En ce qui concerne l'élaboration d'une convention sur la conception, le stockage et la destruction des armes chimiques, tâche que l'Assemblée estime également prioritaire, nous constatons que les perspectives sont plus prometteuses que celles de l'an dernier. Les négociations vont bon train entre les Etats-Unis et l'Union soviétique. Il est encourageant de voir que les deux superpuissances ont reconnu leurs responsabilités particulières et pris l'initiative de jeter les bases d'un traité sur les armes chimiques. Comme pour l'interdiction totale des essais, le champ à couvrir reste encore vaste. Quoi qu'il en soit, il semble bien qu'on puisse s'attendre à voir ces négociations bilatérales aboutir de façon à permettre à la Conférence du désarmement de Genève de commencer ses travaux sur un traité multilatéral avant la convocation, l'année prochaine, de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée sur le désarmement.

Puisque la réduction des budgets militaires devrait s'effectuer à l'échelle mondiale, c'est probablement dans un vaste cadre multilatéral qu'il conviendrait d'aborder cette question et celle de l'élaboration d'un système approprié pour en suivre la progression. Mon pays apprécie l'important travail accompli par le groupe d'étude du Secrétaire général et il appuie ses recommandations. Pour servir réellement la cause du désarmement, la réduction des budgets militaires doit reposer sur la déclaration, la comparaison des dépenses militaires, et, d'une façon générale, sur une plus grande ouverture de la part des Etats. Il faut donc s'engager résolument dans cette voie en se donnant comme objectif de concevoir un bon mécanisme de déclaration et des méthodes de vérification aptes à faire de la restriction des budgets militaires un moyen de désarmement efficace.

De toutes les promesses de succès que j'ai mentionnées, il en est une à laquelle j'accorde une importance particulière: la Session extraordinaire sur le désarmement dont la convocation est prévue pour le mois de mai prochain. Dans la mesure où le Comité préparatoire poursuit ses délibérations en gardant réellement le souci de l'intérêt général et dans un esprit de franche coopération, comme cela a été le cas jusqu'ici, la Session extraordinaire devrait permettre d'en arriver à une communauté de vues sur d'autres moyens susceptibles de favoriser la limitation des armements et l'adoption de véritables mesures de désarmement.

Le Canada se réjouit également du programme d'évaluation des cycles du combustible nucléaire, qui commencera bientôt à l'échelle internationale. Certes, il existe des divergences légitimes sur la valeur des différents modes d'utilisation des ressources et de la technologie nucléaires, mais nous espérons que, dans cette analyse, effectuée sur le plan international, on se penchera attentivement sur des cycles de combustible ne faisant pas appel au plutonium et permettant d'exiger de meilleures garanties. D'après nous, ce projet mérite de recevoir un appui sans réserve de toute la communauté internationale. A vrai dire, même si des pays comme le Canada sont disposés à adopter des mesures rigoureuses à l'échelle nationale, le régime international de non-prolifération ne saura être vraiment mis en oeuvre qu'avec la participation de tous les pays - qu'ils soient dotés ou non d'armes nucléaires, industrialisés ou en développement, exportateurs ou importateurs - c'est-à-dire, de tous ceux qui partagent le désir d'éviter les dangers inhérents à la prolifération nucléaire.

Les efforts déployés dans le cadre des accords SALT et à l'échelle internationale afin de consolider le régime de non-prolifération nous permettent d'envisager avec un certain optimisme la réalisation de l'objectif tant convoité qu'est l'interdiction totale des essais nucléaires. Depuis des années, l'immense majorité des Etats membres insiste sur l'importance d'en arriver à un tel traité. Certes, c'est un précieux encouragement que de voir débiter des négociations officielles entre les trois Etats dotés d'armes nucléaires à qui il incombe - en qualité de premiers signataires du Traité de 1963 sur l'interdiction partielle des armes nucléaires - d'engager de telles négociations.

Le Canada a exposé sa position sur le sujet maintes et maintes fois. Nous estimons qu'il revient aux deux superpuissances de donner l'exemple et de s'entendre pour mettre un terme à leurs essais nucléaires pendant une période déterminée, même si les autres Etats dotés d'armes nucléaires ne les imitent pas immédiatement. Durant la présente session, nous avons appris du ministre des Affaires étrangères de l'Union soviétique, M. Gromyko, que son pays, tout comme les Etats-Unis et le Royaume-Uni, pourrait envisager de mettre un terme à ses essais. Cette annonce marque une évolution heureuse de la position soviétique, évolution dont on doit se féliciter particulièrement dans la mesure où elle suppose, comme nous le soutenons depuis longtemps, que les progrès en faveur de l'arrêt définitif des essais ne sont pas subordonnés à la participation de tous les Etats dotés d'armes nucléaires.

Il est évident que les obstacles seront malaisés à surmonter: vérification, définition de la portée de l'accord et des conditions de son entrée en vigueur. La solution de ces problèmes prendra du temps. A la Conférence du désarmement de Genève, le Canada et d'autres pays ont fourni, sur le plan technique, un apport considérable au groupe de travail chargé de l'examen du rôle possible d'un échange de données sismologiques, à l'échelle internationale, dans la solution du problème de la vérification. Le Canada note avec satisfaction que le principe d'un tel échange semble accepté des participants aux négociations. Par ailleurs, nous avons déjà affirmé, à la Conférence de Genève, qu'en l'absence de méthodes permettant d'éviter que les explosions nucléaires dites pacifiques ne servent à la fabrication d'armes,

Quiconque connaît la complexité des problèmes que soulève la sécurité ne peut douter des difficultés de parvenir à des mesures valables de restrictions des armements stratégiques. Néanmoins, le Canada a la ferme conviction qu'il est souhaitable, voire essentiel, de prendre dans les plus brefs délais des mesures à la fois nouvelles et audacieuses si l'on ne veut pas perdre l'impulsion donnée aux négociations dans les années passées au prix d'un travail acharné et diminuer ainsi les perspectives du succès. À ce stade, l'Assemblée se doit de ne laisser aucun doute dans l'esprit des deux puissances négociatrices quant à l'espoir profond que nourrit la communauté internationale de voir leurs entretiens aboutir bientôt à la conclusion de SALT II, conclusion qui permettrait d' amorcer la troisième phase des pourparlers, c'est-à-dire, de progresser vers une nouvelle réduction sensible des armes stratégiques.

Analysons maintenant la nécessité pressante d'améliorer le régime international de non-prolifération, de consolider les garanties dont l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) doit assurer le respect, d'accroître l'efficacité de l'application du traité de non-prolifération et de réexaminer les risques inhérents aux différents cycles et procédés nucléaires. C'est une tâche d'autant plus importante que le monde doit affronter une pénurie énergétique qui s'aggrave et que de nombreux pays se tournent vers l'énergie nucléaire pour remplacer les sources d'énergie classiques. Dans ce domaine, le Canada a une longue expérience de producteur et de fournisseur d'uranium qui permet à d'autres pays de bénéficier de sa technologie nucléaire reconnue. À titre d'exportateur, nous sommes conscients que nous pouvons être utiles aux pays pauvres en énergie, qu'ils soient industrialisés ou en développement. Parallèlement, nous attachons la plus haute importance à l'établissement, sur le plan international, de garanties aussi efficaces que possible visant à empêcher la dissémination des armements et des moyens de production de telles armes.

Cette ligne de conduite transcende les considérations commerciales et nous avons clairement fait savoir que nous sommes disposés à sacrifier d'éventuels gains matériels plutôt que d'accepter des contrôles qui ne nous satisfieraient pas pleinement. Il y a longtemps que le Canada a rejeté l'option d'un armement nucléaire et notre politique en matière de garanties est le prolongement logique de nos préoccupations, voire de nos responsabilités, en matière de non-prolifération. En conséquence, lorsque des États non dotés d'armes nucléaires demandent au Canada de leur fournir des matières, du matériel nucléaires ou de mettre sa technologie nucléaire à leur disposition, celui-ci exige de ces pays qu'ils adhèrent au Traité de non-prolifération ou qu'ils s'engagent solennellement en faveur de la non-prolifération et acceptent de donner les garanties dont l'AIEA assure le respect, pour l'ensemble de leur programme nucléaire ("garanties intégrales"). Par là, nous demandons simplement à d'autres d'adopter des engagements auxquels le Canada a déjà volontairement souscrit. Nous nous réjouissons de ce qu'un certain nombre d'autres fournisseurs aient adopté une ligne de conduite analogue à la nôtre et nous espérons que celle-ci deviendra le préalable international fondamental de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'utilisation strictement pacifique de l'énergie atomique.

Dans le discours qu'il a prononcé le 26 septembre 1977 devant l'Assemblée générale, le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures du Canada affirmait: "Aucun autre problème n'a de plus grande importance pour cette assemblée que le désarmement. Mais aucun autre sujet n'a autant résisté à nos efforts et plus déçu nos peuples". Je me souviens aussi que, l'année dernière, lors du débat sur le désarmement en Première Commission, j'ai exprimé une certaine impatience, une frustration et une déception profonde devant l'incapacité persistante de la communauté internationale à affronter plus concrètement et avec plus de célérité les terribles problèmes du désarmement. Pourtant, en dépit de réalisations décevantes jusqu'à présent, un examen de la situation actuelle nous permet d'être optimistes en ce qui concerne au moins trois secteurs cruciaux où l'on a accéléré et intensifié les efforts, laissant ainsi entrevoir l'éventualité d'un déblocage.

Rien là cependant qui nous autorise à nous reposer sur nos lauriers. Il faudra du temps avant que ces quelques espoirs prennent une forme concrète, certitude qui ne diminue pas l'urgence de la situation mais qui, au contraire, la fait ressortir. Les efforts persistants déployés par la communauté mondiale en vue de renforcer la sécurité internationale, par l'application de mesures touchant la limitation des armements et le désarmement nous permettent maintenant d'entrevoir des réalisations importantes. Le succès de cette entreprise dépendra de l'intensité des efforts qui seront faits dans les années à venir, en particulier des efforts des Etats ayant une puissance militaire.

Pour ce qui est de l'arrêt de la prolifération des armes nucléaires dans l'arsenal des superpuissances, les initiatives les plus importantes sont, actuellement, celles des Etats-Unis et de l'Union soviétique qui, dans un premier temps, cherchent à s'entendre sur un train de mesures complémentaires destinées à freiner la course aux armements stratégiques pour, ensuite, adopter une politique de désarmement proprement dite. Le Canada croit fermement que l'objectif final des négociations engagées par les deux grandes puissances nucléaires devrait être d'attaquer le problème en tenant compte de ses aspects qualitatifs et quantitatifs: il s'agit de freiner la course à laquelle on se livre dans le domaine technique pour inventer des armes nucléaires de plus en plus perfectionnées, tout en diminuant le nombre de ces armes.

Récemment, les Etats-Unis et l'Union soviétique ont annoncé séparément leur intention de continuer à se soumettre aux dispositions de l'Accord, maintenant échu, sur la limitation des armements stratégiques, SALT I, pendant que se poursuivent les négociations sur son prolongement, longtemps attendu, SALT II. Ce nouvel accord représenterait un premier jalon important dans la réduction effective des armements nucléaires. Il importe tout particulièrement de noter que ces négociations, et d'autres sur certaines restrictions supplémentaires provisoires, se poursuivent maintenant avec un dynamisme renouvelé.

C'est dans ce contexte que M. R. Harry Jay, ambassadeur et représentant permanent du Canada près l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et de la Conférence du désarmement, est intervenu le 29 octobre 1977 dans le débat général sur le désarmement.

A l'occasion de la trente-deuxième session, les Nations Unies ont continué à chercher et à proposer des solutions aux problèmes complexes du désarmement. Plus de cent dix déclarations nationales à ce sujet et l'adoption de vingt-quatre résolutions démontrent l'importance qu'attache la communauté internationale à ces problèmes. Plusieurs discours ont souligné la nécessité de progrès tangibles en ce domaine dans les prochains mois et évoqué les espoirs que pourrait susciter la session extraordinaire de mai 1978 sur le désarmement.

10. Le désarmement

Le Canada participe depuis le début aux travaux du Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix. Mais, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, il est consterné de voir qu'aucun accord n'intervient sur les principes directeurs à appliquer en l'espèce. D'un autre côté, si ces principes doivent enfermer notre action dans un cadre rigide et impraticable, nous préférons ne pas en avoir du tout. Ce que le Canada veut, ce sont des progrès tangibles tant sur les principes directeurs que sur les mesures d'ordre pratique. S'il faut pour cela donner un nouveau mandat au Comité, nous sommes prêts alors à appuyer une proposition à cet effet. Ce que nous ne voulons pas, c'est que le Comité abandonne ses efforts. L'ONU est en effet aux prises avec un certain nombre de conflits où elle pourrait fort bien avoir à jouer un rôle de maintien de la paix. Dans ces circonstances, l'option publique de mon pays accepterait mal que cette Assemblée renie ses responsabilités dans ce domaine.

En évaluant les efforts déployés par le Comité spécial et son groupe de travail au cours de l'année écoulée, il faut reconnaître que certains progrès ont été réalisés. Mais si nous voulons avancer plus rapidement, il semble nécessaire de modifier leur mandat et leurs méthodes de travail. Nous croyons d'abord qu'il faut, dans tout nouveau mandat, accorder une priorité égale aux mesures d'ordre pratique et aux principes directeurs. En second lieu, l'obtention du consensus ne devrait pas pouvoir être bloquée indéfiniment par une seule délégation ou par quelques-unes. Je recommanderais donc qu'à l'avenir, aucune délégation n'ait le droit de faire seule obstacle au consensus à moins d'être disposée à consigner ses réserves dans les rapports écrits du groupe de travail et du Comité dont il relève. Il serait alors plus facile de délimiter clairement les secteurs faisant l'objet d'un litige.

commandement supérieur et d'état-major sous les auspices ou la coordination de l'ONU et la tenue de colloques régionaux et internationaux sur le maintien de la paix faciliteraient à l'Organisation la mise en oeuvre des opérations de maintien de la paix et décuplèrent l'efficacité et le rendement de ces dernières sur le terrain. Au cours de l'année qui vient, le Comité spécial pourrait se pencher sur d'autres mesures d'ordre pratique, par exemple les dispositions relatives au soutien logistique et les accords modèles sur le statut des forces.

La question du commandement, du contrôle et de la supervision des forces de maintien de la paix au sein de l'ONU revêt une importance capitale. En tant que fournisseur d'effets, le Canada estime que le Secrétaire général devrait diriger les opérations de maintien de la paix sous l'autorité générale du Conseil de Sécurité et nommer leurs commandants après consultation de cet organe et des parties au conflit. Un tel système allierait souplesse et efficacité maximale.

Une force de maintien de la paix devrait recevoir un mandat précis et suffisamment étendu pour lui permettre de s'acquitter de ses fonctions, en lui accordant par exemple la liberté de mouvement. Un mandat insuffisant ou mal défini peut gêner sérieusement le bon fonctionnement continu d'une force.

Une condition première essentielle à une mission de maintien de la paix est que toutes les parties au conflit acceptent la présence de la force et conviennent de respecter le cessez-le-feu. Aucun groupe de l'ONU, qu'il s'agisse d'une simple mission d'observation ou d'une force plus importante qui s'interpose entre les belligérants, ne pourrait fonctionner efficacement si l'une ou plusieurs des parties au conflit refusait sa présence ou ne respectaient pas le cessez-le-feu. Le Canada, en ce qui le concerne, étend la notion de l'acceptabilité d'une force considérée dans son ensemble aux contingents nationaux qui la composent. La participation canadienne à une force de maintien de la paix doit agréer à tous les intérêts et il devrait en être de même pour les autres fournisseurs éventuels d'effets. En retour, les États qui accueillent la force sont tenus d'accorder un traitement et un respect égaux à tous ses membres.

J'aimerais également attirer votre attention sur la question du financement des opérations de maintien de la paix. Les États membres doivent être disposés à assumer les coûts du maintien de la paix s'ils veulent que les fournisseurs d'effets soient largement représentatifs de l'ensemble, comme ce devrait être le cas. Le système des contributions volontaires est démoralisant parce qu'il mène à l'indifférence et au désabusement. Seuls certains pays peuvent se permettre de fournir des effets dans de pareilles conditions. Pourtant, tous les États ont la responsabilité du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité et tous doivent y contribuer financièrement, en fonction de leur capacité de payer, tout comme ils le font pour d'autres activités d'intérêt collectif.

Le Canada s'intéresse également aux aspects pratiques des opérations de maintien de la paix, notamment ceux qui se prêtent à l'exécution avant même que des principes directeurs ne soient adoptés. Un certain nombre de propositions ont été avancées jusqu'ici, comme on le voit à l'Annexe II du rapport du Comité spécial, mais aucune n'a encore été étudiée en profondeur. Il y aurait lieu de procéder à un tel examen. Par ailleurs, des changements et des améliorations dans un certain nombre de secteurs, par exemple la constitution de forces de réserve mises à la disposition des Nations Unies, la formation nationale de soldats aux tâches du maintien de la paix, la rédaction de manuels de formation aux opérations de maintien de la paix, la préparation des officiers appelés à occuper des postes de

Le Canada est fier du rôle qu'il joue à ce chapitre, dans des conditions extrêmement variables, les membres de ses Forces armées. La présence de ces Canadiens, ainsi que de leurs frères d'autres pays, s'est révélée indispensable au Moyen-Orient, à Chypre et ailleurs.

Néanmoins, certains aspects des opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU auraient mieux fonctionné s'ils avaient été planifiés à l'avance suivant des principes directeurs convenus. A la lumière de l'expérience acquise à ce jour, nous ne pouvons guère être persuadés qu'une nouvelle opération de ce genre se déroulerait sans heurts. A moins que l'Organisation ne parvienne à mieux appliquer les principes et les objectifs de la Charte, son prestige et son autorité ne pourront rester à la mesure des espoirs et des aspirations de ceux qui ont signé cette Charte il y a près de trente-trois ans.

Pendant de nombreuses années, le Canada a essayé de puiser à son expérience pour aider à l'élaboration de la théorie et de la pratique du maintien de la paix aux Nations Unies. Il est aujourd'hui amèrement déçu par l'absence de progrès réels. Le maintien de la paix est une solution imprévue sur laquelle l'ONU s'est rabattue lorsqu'elle s'est rendue compte que le système de sécurité collective envisagé à l'origine par la Charte ne pouvait être appliqué dans la pratique. Toutes les opérations de maintien de la paix ont été organisées suivant les circonstances du moment. L'absence de modalités convenues ou de principes directeurs relatifs à l'établissement et au fonctionnement des missions de maintien de la paix a empêché l'ONU de réagir promptement aux situations de crise, d'organiser et de desservir adéquatement les forces de maintien de la paix dépêchées sur les lieux. Les fournisseurs d'effectifs sont particulièrement sensibles à ces problèmes, car ils en subissent directement les conséquences.

Se fondant sur l'expérience qu'il a acquise en participant à diverses opérations dans ce domaine, le Canada a mis au point un ensemble de critères propres à assurer le bon fonctionnement d'une force de maintien de la paix, peu importe qu'il soit ou non invité lui-même à y participer. D'abord, la mise sur pied d'une opération de maintien de la paix devrait être liée à une entente entre les parties au conflit de négocier un règlement, de préférence dans un délai déterminé. S'il n'y a pas de mouvement de "pacification", une force de maintien de la paix peut au bout du compte contribuer à perpétuer le problème, comme l'a fait remarquer notre Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures dans une allocution prononcée plus tôt cette année devant l'Assemblée générale.

Une force de maintien de la paix devrait relever d'une autorité politique, de préférence le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, et cette autorité devrait recevoir des rapports et être habilitée à surveiller l'exécution du mandat de la force. L'expérience canadienne du maintien de la paix va au delà de la participation aux missions de l'ONU - pensons, par exemple, aux Commissions internationales de surveillance et de contrôle en Indochine - mais nous avons constaté que les opérations des Nations Unies offrent les meilleures chances de succès; c'est pourquoi nous leur accordons la préférence.

Sur le plan politique, je désire signaler que le gouvernement du Canada continue d'appuyer les démarches du Secrétaire général et de ses représentants en vue d'obtenir la reprise des pourparlers intercommunautaires. Je tiens notamment à rendre un hommage particulier à Son Excellence M. Pérez de Cuellar, sur le point d'abandonner son poste de représentant spécial du Secrétaire général à Chypre, pour son travail infatigable au service de la paix. Quant aux pourparlers intercommunautaires proprement dits, le gouvernement du Canada déplore l'impasse dans laquelle a été placée le Secrétaire général. Néanmoins, nous désirons l'inciter à poursuivre son rôle de "médiateur" entre les deux communautés cypriotes. La collectivité internationale a été encouragée par la reprise, en février, des pourparlers intercommunautaires au sujet desquels elle nourrissait de grands espoirs. Elle s'attendait que d'importantes concessions soient faites de part et d'autre. Malheureusement, les espoirs ont été déçus et nous sommes conscients qu'une reprise éventuelle des négociations exige la réalisation, au moins implicite, de certains préalables. Les Cypriotes turcs devront montrer qu'ils sont disposés à faire des concessions territoriales et les Cypriotes grecs, à discuter de nouveaux arrangements constitutionnels. Nous espérons également que les autres parties directement intéressées feront preuve de la même bonne volonté et qu'elles auront une influence réelle et bénéfique sur l'évolution du débat. Quelle que soit l'importance d'un débat international sur cette question, c'est grâce à une reprise des pourparlers intercommunautaires que des progrès seront réalisés, comme le reconnaît d'ailleurs le projet de résolution, au paragraphe 3 du dispositif. D'autre part, nous demeurons évidemment convaincus que toute solution politique de la question doit préserver la souveraineté, l'indépendance et l'intégrité territoriale de la République de Chypre.

9. Le maintien de la paix

Même s'il est fier du rôle en campagne des Forces armées canadiennes affectées aux opérations du maintien de la paix des Nations Unies, le Canada estime toujours qu'il aurait été possible d'améliorer l'efficacité d'un certain nombre d'aspects des opérations s'il y avait eu une planification prospective et si l'on s'était entendu sur des lignes directrices. Le Canada est déçu de constater qu'après treize ans d'efforts, le Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU ne soit pas encore parvenu à s'entendre sur ces lignes directrices. De son côté, le Canada a néanmoins dégagé des critères dont le plus important stipule que les parties devraient convenir de négocier, de préférence dans un délai déterminé, un règlement politique avant que ne soit créée toute mission du maintien de la paix. Le Comité spécial devrait aussi accorder davantage d'attention aux considérations pratiques des opérations du maintien de la paix et le Canada a fait des recommandations en ce sens. Mlle Coline Campbell, députée, a fait la déclaration suivante devant la Commission politique spéciale le 8 décembre 1977:

Les opérations de maintien de la paix tiennent une grande place dans l'exécution de la mission première des Nations Unies qui consiste à préserver la paix et la sécurité internationales. Elles peuvent contribuer énormément à apaiser les tensions dans des situations de crise et à instaurer un climat propice au règlement négocié des problèmes politiques en jeu.

J'ai eu le plaisir de visiter l'île en mars dernier et je peux témoigner, moi aussi, de l'efficacité, du dévouement et de la compétence des membres de tous les contingents de la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre. Nous étions donc heureux de noter que le projet de résolution, inscrit dans le document A/32/L.16 du 4 novembre, réitére, dans le paragraphe 6 du dispositif, l'appel lancé à toutes les parties intéressées, leur demandant de coopérer avec la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre.

La participation du Canada à Chypre est motivée par son adhésion à l'ONU et par sa disposition à prêter son concours à l'Organisation en vue du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité. Elle tient aussi au fait que nous sommes préoccupés par l'intégrité nationale d'un autre membre du Commonwealth et par le sort tragique qui frappe tant de Cypriotes. D'ailleurs, à ce propos, il faudra accorder une attention plus grande à la question des personnes portées disparues depuis le conflit de 1974. Ce sujet, il est vrai, a été étudié au cours de la trentième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et le libellé de la résolution 3395 (XXX) reflète les inquiétudes de la communauté internationale à l'égard de cette question d'intérêt humanitaire. Pourtant, la situation trône en longueur, et il nous faut de nouveau recommander instamment qu'aucun effort ne soit négligé "pour aider à retrouver la trace et connaître le sort des personnes portées manquantes" et ce, dans les meilleurs délais.

Le gouvernement du Canada a souvent formulé, à cette tribune, des réserves à l'endroit de certains aspects du rôle des Nations Unies à Chypre. Nous croyons depuis toujours que le maintien de la paix doit être le prélude à la paix véritable. Or, si la présence de la Force a eu pour effet de réduire les tensions et de créer un climat propice à une entente négociée, elle n'a pas sensiblement contribué à amener une solution aux problèmes politiques de Chypre, et nous en sommes déçus.

Lorsque le Canada est intervenu dans le débat de Chypre l'année dernière, nous avons fait état de nos préoccupations à l'égard du déficit croissant de l'UNFICYP et nous avons invité les Etats membres à consentir des contributions volontaires plus nombreuses. Au cours des derniers mois et de concert avec d'autres pays fournisseurs de troupes, le Canada a, par ses instances, appuyé activement les appels lancés par le Secrétaire général afin de recueillir des contributions ou suppléments pour le compte de l'UNFICYP. A la suite de ces appels, des contributions ont été versées, mais elles sont insuffisantes; nous espérons, toutefois, qu'au cours des prochains mois, nos efforts seront récompensés de manière à réduire dans une certaine mesure le déficit sans cesse croissant de l'UNFICYP, qui - je dois le répéter - par suite de l'insuffisance des contributions volontaires, est largement financé actuellement par les pays fournisseurs de troupes eux-mêmes. Comme les coparrains du projet de résolution de cette année l'ont reconnu, l'UNFICYP continue certes, de jouer un rôle important sur l'île, mais il est difficile d'imaginer ce que serait son sort si, après le récent retrait du contingent finlandais, des considérations financières amenaient une nouvelle réduction de ses effectifs.

Les événements survenus tout récemment viennent de donner une nouvelle tournure à la situation au Moyen-Orient. La Chambre des communes du Canada a rendu hommage au président Sadate d'Egypte et au Premier ministre Begin d'Israël pour le courage et l'imagination dont ils ont fait preuve en prenant l'initiative d'un dialogue direct. Nous espérons sincèrement que leur geste historique sera le tremplin qui permettra enfin d'en arriver à une paix juste et durable. Un nouveau climat semble d'ailleurs régner dans la région depuis que les dirigeants d'Israël et de l'Egypte ont, pour ainsi dire, rompu la barrière psychologique qui les séparait depuis si longtemps. Nous espérons que les autres voisins d'Israël et les représentants du peuple palestinien prendront part, eux aussi, au dialogue amorcé au cours du week-end à Jérusalem. Le gouvernement du Canada considère du reste que les États membres des Nations Unies ont le devoir moral et politique de favoriser la poursuite du dialogue et son élargissement afin que des négociations globales menant au règlement pacifique puissent démarrer le plus tôt possible.

8. La question de Chypre

Fournisseur de troupes à la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre (UNFICYP) depuis sa création en 1964, le Canada s'inquiète de voir que la présence de la Force n'a pas favorisé l'avènement d'une solution politique aux problèmes de l'île. Le Canada a aussi soutenu l'appel spécial du Secrétaire général en faveur d'une augmentation ou de l'apport de nouvelles contributions au budget de l'UNFICYP destinées à alléger un déficit croissant. Tout en exhortant le Secrétaire général à continuer sa mission de bons offices afin que se poursuivent les entretiens intercommunautaires de Chypre, le Canada constate que les négociations ne connaîtront aucun progrès sensible tant que les Cypriotes turcs ne démontreront pas qu'ils sont disposés à faire des concessions territoriales et les Cypriotes grecs à discuter de nouveaux arrangements constitutionnels. Telles sont les opinions exprimées le 8 novembre 1977 par M. Barton, représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies, lors du débat en plénière sur Chypre.

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En 1974 et 1975, le Canada s'est joint à la grande majorité des États membres de l'ONU qui firent adopter les résolutions sur Chypre. Il a également soutenu le Secrétaire général dans son rôle de médiateur entre les deux communautés cypriotes et a continué d'appuyer le travail tant du Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés que des membres du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge à Chypre.

Mais, c'est la présence dans l'île, depuis maintenant treize ans, des soldats canadiens engagés dans la Force des Nations Unies qui se trouve au centre des préoccupations canadiennes. Plus de 19,000 Canadiens ont servi à Chypre pendant cette période. Nous sommes fiers de la contribution que ces hommes ont apportée - aux côtés de leurs camarades (soldats et policiers) de Grande-Bretagne, de Suède, du Danemark, de Finland, d'Autriche, d'Irlande et d'Australie - aux opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies.

Orient. La souveraineté et l'intégrité territoriale de chaque Etat de la région doivent être respectées, et le Canada s'oppose à toutes démarches qui pourraient compromettre le droit d'exister d'Israël ou de tout autre Etat de la région. Par ailleurs, tout règlement de paix doit tenir compte des préoccupations du peuple palestinien. Ils doivent pouvoir participer aux négociations qui décideront de leur avenir. Le Canada estime, en outre, qu'un règlement global doit traduire les aspirations du peuple palestinien pour ce qui est de définir une structure et un fondement territorial appropriés pour son expression politique.

Le 24 novembre 1977, l'ambassadeur M. W.H. Barton, représentant permanent du Canada à l'ONU, a fait, au cours du débat en plénière sur la situation au Moyen-Orient, la déclaration suivante:

Les événements de la fin de semaine dernière ont ravivé les espoirs du monde entier à l'égard d'une paix réelle au Moyen-Orient. Je voudrais commencer par formuler une fois encore le souhait qu'une paix juste et durable puisse être établie au Moyen-Orient dans un avenir rapproché. On admet généralement que certains principes doivent présider aux négociations. Le règlement du conflit du Moyen-Orient doit s'inspirer des principes des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité. Israël doit se retirer des territoires occupés en 1967 dans le cadre d'un processus qui établit des frontières sûres et reconnues pour tous les Etats de la région et qui reconnaît sans équivoque le droit de tous ces Etats de vivre en paix. La résolution 242 posait un jalon dans la mesure où elle recueillait l'assentiment général sur le cadre fondamental d'une paix juste et durable. C'est d'elle dont il faut s'inspirer pour s'acheminer vers une solution négociée qui, pour être durable, doit calmer les inquiétudes que toutes les parties nourrissent à propos de leur sécurité et doit répondre aux préoccupations du peuple palestinien.

Nous affirmons à nouveau aujourd'hui que le meilleur moyen de trouver la paix est, nous semble-t-il, que les parties directement en cause négocient en choisissant elles-mêmes le mode à utiliser. Il nous apparaît que les événements récents pointent vers la reconvoque de la Conférence de Genève. Comme nous l'avons déjà dit, cette Conférence offre le mécanisme qui permet de réaliser un règlement global et nous sommes partisans d'y recourir. Elle semble maintenant à portée de la main. L'élan semble avoir été donné aux négociations de paix, mais à l'extérieur des murs des Nations Unies. A notre avis, tout débat des Nations Unies sur le Moyen-Orient devrait viser à promouvoir l'établissement de la paix dans cette région.

Nos débats et nos résolutions traduisent l'opinion de la communauté internationale, ce qui est important. A l'heure actuelle, toutefois, il nous importe encore davantage non seulement de permettre aux parties en cause de poursuivre le dialogue que deux d'entre elles ont entamé, mais de les encourager à le faire. Maintenant que le débat est bien lancé, nous espérons que les déclarations que nous entendrons seront positives et que toute résolution qui nous sera proposée reflètera non seulement les positions respectives des Etats membres mais tiendra compte des récents événements au Moyen-Orient.

L'on appelle une solution interne serait inacceptable et éphémère: une solution purement externe aurait peu de chances de rallier un appui suffisant au sein de la majorité au Zimbabwe. Notre objectif, croyons-nous, doit être d'encourager l'élaboration d'un cadre à l'intérieur duquel le gouvernement indépendant du Zimbabwe sera choisi par tous les Zimbabwéens".

L'initiative lancée le printemps dernier par le Royaume-Uni et secondée par les Etats-Unis nous paraissait réunir les éléments requis pour un règlement négocié acceptable par la communauté internationale. Le gouvernement du Canada a donc appuyé cette initiative d'autant plus que, pour la première fois en plus de dix ans toutes les parties intéressées acceptaient un document unique comme base de discussion. Les pourparlers entrepris par le Fieid Marshall Carver et le représentant spécial du Secrétaire général, le général Prem Chand, ont porté sur certains points parmi les plus difficiles que comporte tout règlement durable et nous regrettons qu'il n'ait pas été possible d'élargir le terrain d'entente à leur sujet. Nous voyons difficilement comment le projet de règlement interne que nous propose maintenant M. Smith à titre de rechange peut conduire à ce Zimbabwe pacifique et stable que tous nous désirons.

De toute évidence, un règlement acceptable par la communauté internationale et en dernier ressort le Conseil de sécurité doit être issu d'une négociation qui groupe toutes les parties en présence.

Dans la situation actuelle, il incombe à chacun de nous de veiller à ne pas relâcher la pression internationale. Le Canada n'est pas partie au processus de négociation au Zimbabwe mais nous sommes disposés à faire tout ce que nous pouvons pour encourager les premiers intéressés et pour aider à aplanner la période de transition. Le Canada examinerait très sérieusement toute requête en vue de sa contribution à une participation des Nations Unies au règlement. De même, nous avons accepté en principe l'idée d'un fonds de développement du Zimbabwe. De même enfin, nous continuerons à souscrire généreusement aux programmes des Nations Unies, du Commonwealth et d'organismes non gouvernementaux qui dispensent de l'enseignement et apportent une aide humanitaire au peuple africain du Zimbabwe en prévision de son rôle futur après l'accession à l'indépendance.

Pour conclure, je ne saurais trop insister sur l'importance que toutes les parties en cause fassent preuve de flexibilité et d'esprit de compromis. Dans l'intérêt de toute la population du Zimbabwe, nous espérons que cet esprit régnera au cours des mois qui viennent et qui seront déterminants pour l'avenir de ce pays.

7. La situation au Moyen-Orient

En ce qui concerne la situation au Moyen-Orient, le Canada considère que les résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité fournissent un cadre valable pour une solution juste et équitable du conflit au Moyen-

Depuis que M. Smith a déclaré unilatéralement l'indépendance de la Rhodésie en 1965, le Canada a eu à coeur la recherche des moyens de mettre fin à l'affront que fait ce régime minoritaire illégal à l'opinion mondiale. En 1968, pendant un mandat précédent au Conseil de sécurité, nous avons participé au vote unanime de la résolution 253, par laquelle, pour la première fois, l'ONU usait de son autorité pour imposer des sanctions économiques. Le Canada les a appliquées chez lui et a encouragé tous les membres - et même les non-membres - de l'Organisation à faire de même.

Les sanctions économiques infligées jusqu'à aujourd'hui au régime Smith n'ont pas eu l'effet immédiat et déterminant que leurs auteurs avaient, avec trop d'optimisme peut-être, espéré, mais elles ont quand même pesé lourd. Mais, par suite de ces sanctions et de la rareté croissante des ressources humaines et matérielles affectées à une guerre qui va s'aggravant et que la minorité blanche se sait incapable de gagner, l'atmosphère est tendue et incertaine en Rhodésie et l'émigration blanche prend constamment de l'ampleur.

La fermeture des frontières de la Zambie et du Mozambique a fortement accru l'efficacité des sanctions économiques. En contrepartie, cependant, tous les États voisins ont dû supporter un fardeau économique extrêmement lourd, et c'est pourquoi le Canada leur a apporté une aide économique qui compense partiellement les sacrifices consentis.

La Conférence tenue à Maputo en mai dernier pour le soutien aux peuples du Zimbabwe et de la Namibie a constitué un jalon majeur sur la voie de l'indépendance et de la règle de la majorité dans les deux pays. Regroupant toutes les parties soucieuses d'instaurer le gouvernement par la majorité au Zimbabwe, elle a affirmé sans équivoque et avec l'appui de la communauté internationale que ce processus ne saurait avoir lieu sans la participation de l'ensemble du peuple zimbabwéen. Ayant fait l'historique de la longue recherche d'un règlement négocié, des espoirs toujours déçus qui ont conduit à la lutte armée, la Conférence a constaté que la conjonction de ces pressions avec l'effort international permettait d'espérer la négociation d'un règlement fondé sur la règle de la majorité.

Malgré ces efforts réunis, ce n'est que tout récemment que M. Smith a laissé entendre qu'il acceptait enfin l'idée de négocier la transition vers un gouvernement majoritaire élu au suffrage universel. En dépit d'une intransigeance maintes fois démontrée, le Canada continue à croire en un règlement négocié si celui-ci tient compte de tous les facteurs pertinents. Nous estimons que l'ensemble du peuple zimbabwéen doit pouvoir participer librement à la négociation d'un règlement qui respecterait son droit à l'autodétermination et à l'indépendance. Comme le disait le délégué du Canada à la Conférence de Maputo:

"Si l'on veut parvenir à un règlement durable, les négociations doivent tenir compte de tous les éléments nationalistes qui exercent des pressions politiques et militaires, de l'intérieur ou de l'extérieur. Ce que

Le document dont est saisie la Commission traite partiellement du cas de trois territoires situés assez près du Canada et avec lesquels les Canadiens entretiennent des rapports au chapitre du commerce, des investissements, des échanges de personnes et du tourisme. Dans un de ces cas, les flux financiers vont dans les deux sens. Dans tous ces cas, la décision d'investir ou non dans un territoire donné est prise par la société concernée au vu des règlements régissant les investissements en vigueur dans ledit territoire.

Il convient que la Commission respecte la volonté des gouvernements librement élus des territoires non autonomes et ne tente pas de leur imposer la sienne. Les Bermudes, par exemple, avec qui le Canada entretient les relations les plus étroites, jouissent d'une entière souveraineté au chapitre du commerce, de l'économie et d'autres questions financières. Nous voyons mal que cette Commission se donne pour tâche de commenter les politiques arrêtées par un gouvernement démocratiquement élu.

En ce qui concerne chacun de ces territoires, l'une de nos préoccupations majeures doit être de promouvoir l'établissement d'assises économiques solides qui serviront de base à une indépendance stable et prospère. Soucieuse des droits politiques des peuples de ces territoires, cette Commission entendra certes encourager leur poursuite de cet objectif.

6. La question de la Rhodésie

Depuis que la Rhodésie a unilatéralement déclaré son indépendance du Royaume-Uni en 1965, l'ONU a tenté d'abattre son régime minoritaire illégal en votant des résolutions à l'Assemblée générale et des sanctions économiques inspirées du Chapitre VII de la Charte du Conseil de sécurité. Le Canada a appuyé ces efforts et toutes les tentatives pour parvenir à un règlement négocié axé sur l'accession à l'indépendance et au gouvernement par la majorité. En 1977, le Canada a donc soutenu le plan anglo-américain qui devait jeter les bases des négociations conduisant à cet objectif.

Le 8 décembre 1977, l'ambassadeur M. Pierre Charpentier, représentant du Canada à la Quatrième Commission, faisait la déclaration suivante:

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Depuis trop d'années déjà l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies met à son ordre du jour la question de la Rhodésie, où un régime répressif exerce une autorité illégale. Mais, d'une année à l'autre, la minorité blanche a perdu peu à peu son emprise et il semble bien que nous soyons à la veille de changements importants.

Cette expectative, tout comme la conscience aiguë de l'oppression que continue à subir la majorité du peuple du Zimbabwe, nous en sommes redevables à cette majorité, à son courage et sa ténacité. Par ces sacrifices et la vigueur de sa lutte pour l'indépendance et l'avènement de la majorité, elle a rallié l'opinion mondiale à sa cause.

Nous croyons important, pour notre débat et l'élaboration d'une résolution sur le sujet, de distinguer clairement entre ces deux aspects et de ne pas faire de grandes généralisations qui, si elles valent pour un territoire, ne valent pas nécessairement pour un autre.

En ce qui concerne la Rhodésie du Sud, les faits sont clairs. Ce pays est frappé de sanctions économiques sérieuses invoquées aux termes du Chapitre VII de la Charte des Nations Unies. Par conséquent, il revient à tous les intérêts économiques étrangers, conformément au droit international et à l'appareil législatif de leur propre Etat, de s'assurer qu'ils respectent ces sanctions et de n'aider ou de n'encourager d'aucune façon le maintien du régime illégal. En corollaire, il revient à chaque Etat de faire tout en son pouvoir pour veiller à l'application des sanctions et d'engager des poursuites contre tout contrevenant.

La situation en Namibie est unique. De par les résolutions du Conseil de sécurité et les décisions de la Cour internationale de Justice, les Etats membres sont dans l'obligation de voir à ce qu'aucune de leurs transactions avec l'Afrique du Sud ne puisse en aucune façon être assimilée à une reconnaissance de l'administration illégale de la Namibie. Le Canada a pris cette obligation très au sérieux et a veillé à ce qu'aucun traité qu'il a contracté avec l'Afrique du Sud ne s'applique à la Namibie. Nous n'avons ni ambassade ni bureau commercial en Namibie. En outre, les citoyens canadiens désireux de voyager dans ce territoire et les sociétés canadiennes qui se proposent d'y investir sont avertis qu'ils le font à leurs propres risques et que, le cas échéant, le gouvernement du Canada ne saurait épouser leur fait et cause à l'égard du nouveau gouvernement d'une Namibie indépendante.

En ce qui a trait aux investissements étrangers dans de petits territoires non autonomes, fréquemment isolés, nous sommes d'avis qu'il est important que le débat se déroule dans une certaine impartialité. Il n'est pas question de se retrouver à discuter les avantages d'un système économique par rapport à un autre. Notre objectif fondamental devrait être de s'assurer que le développement économique d'un territoire non autonome procède en harmonie avec les intérêts à long et à court termes des peuples qui y habitent. Nous jugeons que cette responsabilité incombe à l'administration en place.

L'investissement économique étranger peut être et est fréquemment bénéfique. La plupart des pays indépendants, qu'ils soient industrialisés ou en développement, recherchent des investissements étrangers qui respectent leurs critères. Il serait illogique pour nous de prétendre qu'on devrait avoir pour politique de dénier aux territoires non autonomes le droit de rechercher de tels investissements s'ils les jugent compatibles avec leurs aspirations. De toute évidence, chaque cas doit être jugé selon ses mérites. Ce qui importe, c'est de nous assurer que le statut de ces territoires ne nuit pas à l'application de leurs politiques en matière de développement économique et d'investissement.

C'est en avril que les discussions avec les parties ont débuté. Depuis, il y a eu trois séries de discussions avec le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud. Une deuxième série de discussions se poursuit actuellement avec la SWAPO. Conscients du rôle critique joué par les Nations Unies en ce qui concerne la Namibie, nous avons tenu le Secrétaire général M. Waldheim et le Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie informés de nos efforts. Nous avons également maintenu d'étroits rapports avec les Etats de première ligne et autres Etats africains.

Jusqu'à maintenant, nous pouvons faire état d'un certain progrès. Nous croyons que notre initiative a empêché la mise en oeuvre du plan qui avait pour but d'établir un gouvernement intérimaire fondé sur la Constitution de Turnhalle et que nous avons réussi à établir la base d'un engagement éventuel des Nations Unies.

Nos efforts jusqu'à ce jour ont clairement démontré qu'une solution pacifique et durable du problème de la Namibie ne sera possible que si elle reçoit l'appui total de la communauté internationale. Il est également évident que les parties qui sont directement en cause ont la chance unique d'en arriver à une telle solution, malgré la méfiance qui n'a fait qu'augmenter au cours des années passées. Les éléments de solution se trouvent dans la résolution 385 et quant à nous, nous persévérons dans nos efforts pour éliminer tous les obstacles qui en empêchent encore la mise en oeuvre. Nous espérons et nous avons confiance que toutes les parties s'efforceront à faciliter l'accomplissement de cet objectif et que dès l'an prochain, un gouvernement namibien indépendant, représentant tous les Namubiens, viendra prendre la place qui lui revient de droit parmi nous dans cette salle.

5. Les activités des intérêts économiques étrangers et autres dans les territoires non autonomes

A chaque session, la Quatrième Commission étudie un point à l'ordre du jour touchant les effets des activités des intérêts économiques étrangers dans les territoires non autonomes. En 1975, le Canada a indiqué qu'il appuyait ce principe en votant en faveur de la résolution. Cependant, aussi bien en 1976 qu'en 1977, la résolution est devenue politisée à un point tel que tous les investissements étrangers étaient condamnés, quel que soit le contexte, et que l'Occident a subi des reproches généralisés inadmissibles. Devant ces faits, le Canada a donc voté contre la résolution. Le 6 octobre 1977, l'ambassadeur Pierre Charpentier, représentant du Canada à la Quatrième Commission, a prononcé le discours suivant:

La question dont nous sommes saisis semble déboucher sur deux thèmes différents: premièrement, le rôle inhibiteur que jouent ou ne jouent pas les intérêts économiques étrangers au chapitre de l'application de la Déclaration sur la décolonisation des territoires de la Rhodésie du Sud et de la Namibie; deuxièmement, les conséquences de l'activité économique étrangère sur la marche vers l'indépendance de petits territoires qui n'ont pas encore exercé leur droit à l'autodétermination.

Au nom des gouvernements de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, des Etats-Unis, de la France, du Royaume-Uni, de même qu'en celui du Canada, j'aimerais donner à l'Assemblée générale une description des options que nous partageons quant à la situation en Namibie et des efforts que nous avons entrepris cette année pour promouvoir l'indépendance de la Namibie.

Au cours des dernières années, nos gouvernements se sont de plus en plus inquiétés de la situation illégale qui se perpétue en Namibie et du triste état de la population namibienne qui a été et est encore aujourd'hui soumise à l'oppression quotidienne d'un système racial discriminatoire fondé sur les politiques d'apartheid. Notre inquiétude s'est également vue renforcée par la réalisation que tous les efforts déployés pour mettre fin à cette longue impasse ont été infructueux et que tous les appels lancés pour que soit trouvée le plus tôt possible une solution pacifique au problème ont été jusqu'ici ignorés.

En tant que membre du Conseil de sécurité, nos cinq gouvernements sont pleinement conscients de la nécessité de la mise en application de la résolution 385 du Conseil de sécurité, afin de contribuer ainsi à l'élaboration d'une solution juste et permanente à la question de la Namibie.

Cette résolution, qui n'est que l'aboutissement d'une longue série d'efforts par le Conseil de sécurité pour résoudre le problème, constitue un programme d'action exhaustif pour la réalisation méthodique de l'indépendance complète de la Namibie. Il s'ensuit que conformément à cette résolution, toute solution mise de l'avant doit rendre possible la tenue d'élections libres, sous la supervision et le contrôle des Nations Unies, pour toute la Namibie, considérée comme une seule entité politique, et rendant possible une participation sans entraves de tous les Namubiens, y compris ceux qui sont à l'heure actuelle en détention ou en exil. On doit créer des conditions qui garantiront la réalisation d'un tel processus politique et l'on doit s'assurer de la coopération de tous. Les objectifs fondamentaux du Conseil de sécurité et, en vérité, ceux de la communauté internationale tout entière, doivent nous conduire à la mise en oeuvre de mesures concrètes qui seront fidèlement appliquées.

La résolution 385, qui continue de recevoir le plein appui de nos cinq gouvernements, a donc constitué la base des efforts communs que nous avons entrepris au printemps dernier, dans une tentative officielle d'explorer avec toutes les parties les possibilités de solution au problème namibien. Nous n'entretenons aucune illusion quant aux difficultés inhérentes à une telle entreprise mais nous espérons, et nous continuons d'espérer, qu'en explorant pour notre part tous les facteurs pertinents, nous pourrions identifier les moyens pratiques qui rendront possible aux parties la mise en oeuvre de la résolution 385. Notre objectif a donc été de préparer la voie pour tous les Namubiens pour qu'ils puissent exercer pleine-ment leur droit à l'autodétermination qui leur a été dénié pendant si long-temps, avec l'assistance des Nations Unies par le truchement d'élections véritablement démocratiques à travers l'ensemble du territoire.

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Le Sud-Ouest africain ou Namibie est le seul territoire mandaté qui ne soit ni devenu indépendant ni placé sous le système de tutelle des Nations Unies. Lorsque celui-ci a été créé pour remplacer le système de mandats de la Société des Nations, l'Afrique du Sud a refusé de placer sous tutelle le territoire mandaté du Sud-Ouest africain. En 1966, en vertu de la résolution 2145(XXI), l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a mis fin au mandat de l'Afrique du Sud sur la Namibie et a transféré la responsabilité du territoire aux Nations Unies. L'Afrique du Sud a refusé de se conformer à cette décision (que le Canada a appuyée) et l'impasse entre l'ONU et l'Afrique du Sud est demeurée. En 1970, dans la résolution 283, le Conseil de sécurité a demandé à tous les Etats d'éviter d'entretenir avec l'Afrique du Sud toutes relations - diplomatiques, consulaires ou autres - qui supposent la reconnaissance de l'administration de la Namibie par ce pays. En 1971, la Cour internationale de Justice a conclu que la présence de l'Afrique du Sud en Namibie était illégale et que l'Afrique du Sud avait l'obligation de retirer immédiatement son administration du territoire. Cet avis consultatif de la Cour n'a produit aucun effet sur la politique et les agissements du gouvernement en cause. Le Canada estime que l'occupation de la Namibie par l'Afrique du Sud est illégale et il a appliqué les résolutions de l'Assemblée générale sur la Namibie qu'il considère réellement de nature à régler le problème par la voie de négociations et sans recours à la violence.

Lors de la trente-deuxième session de l'AGNU, le Canada, à titre de membre occidental du Conseil de sécurité, a participé à des négociations sur la Namibie qui se sont tenues hors de l'enceinte onusienne. L'explication de vote qui suit a été donnée par M. l'ambassadeur Barton, représentant permanent du Canada à l'ONU, au nom des cinq membres occidentaux du Conseil de sécurité.

4. La question de la Namibie

Le gouvernement du Canada a coopéré pleinement avec le Comité créé conformément à la résolution 253 (1968) et a respecté la façon de procéder mise au point par le Comité, afin d'encourager la coopération de tous les Etats membres. De la même manière, nous avons l'intention d'appuyer les activités du Comité chargé de veiller à l'application de l'embargo sur les armes contre l'Afrique du Sud.

pensons que lorsque le Comité que nous venons de créer entreprendra ses travaux, il devrait adopter les mêmes procédures que celles qui ont été appliquées pendant des années par le Comité des sanctions contre la Rhodésie, et s'attaquer sans délai aux principales tâches qui lui ont été confiées, telles que définies au paragraphe 1 du dispositif de la présente résolution.

3. L'embargo sur les armes destinées à l'Afrique du Sud

Comme le Canada était membre du Conseil de sécurité en 1977, il a pris part à la décision historique (résolution 418 du Conseil de sécurité du 4 novembre 1977) d'appliquer un embargo obligatoire sur les armes destinées à l'Afrique du Sud en vertu du Chapitre VII de la Charte des Nations Unies. C'était la première fois qu'une mesure de ce genre était prise contre un Etat membre de l'ONU. La décision a été prise en raison de l'inquiétude croissante de la communauté internationale devant la détérioration de la paix et de la sécurité en Afrique australe causée par la détermination de l'Afrique du Sud de consolider l'apartheid, forme institutionnalisée de discrimination raciale, en réprimant de plus en plus violemment la majorité non blanche. En votant en faveur de l'embargo obligatoire sur les armes, le Canada confirmait la politique qu'il avait volontairement suivie depuis 1963.

A maintes reprises, M. William H. Barton, ambassadeur et représentant permanent du Canada, a fait des observations sur cette question devant le Conseil de sécurité. A la suite du vote sur la mise sur pied d'un comité chargé de surveiller l'application de l'embargo sur les armes destinées à l'Afrique du Sud, M. Barton fit, le 21 novembre, la déclaration suivante:

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Le Canada a appuyé l'adoption par le Conseil de sécurité, le 4 novembre dernier, de la résolution 418 (1977) établissant un embargo sur les livraisons d'armes à l'Afrique du Sud aux termes du Chapitre VII de la Charte. Nous appuyons aussi entièrement la décision que le Conseil vient de prendre à l'égard de l'établissement d'un comité chargé de surveiller l'application des mesures envisagées dans la résolution 418 (1977).

Dans sa réponse à la note que le Secrétaire général a fait parvenir aux Etats membres conformément au paragraphe 6 du dispositif de la résolution 418 (1977), le gouvernement du Canada, le 28 novembre dernier, a fait savoir au Secrétaire général que le Canada avait déjà imposé en 1963 un embargo sur la vente d'armes et d'équipements militaires à l'Afrique du Sud et qu'en 1970 cet embargo avait été étendu à la livraison de pièces de rechange, conformément aux résolutions pertinentes du Conseil de sécurité. Nous avons fait remarquer dans notre réponse que le Canada, ayant souscrit à la résolution 418 (1977) par laquelle cet embargo volontaire sur les armes devenait obligatoire, l'appliquerait fidèlement.

En décidant maintenant de créer un Comité, conformément à la résolution 418 (1977), le Conseil a suivi le précédent qui avait consisté à établir un Comité de même nature, en vertu de la résolution 253 (1968) du Conseil de sécurité concernant les sanctions obligatoires contre la Rhodésie du Sud. Je comprends que le moment n'est peut-être pas opportun pour discuter de cette question, mais je voudrais qu'il soit bien noté que nous

en année, la condition des individus s'est détériorée dans ce pays. Plusieurs milliers de personnes ont été poursuivies, et parfois persécutées, en conséquence directe de leurs tentatives de s'organiser politiquement pour en arriver à une évolution pacifique de la situation en Afrique du Sud. Le nombre de bannissements, de détentions, et de poursuites criminelles sous l'égide des lois injustes qui forment le cadre du système de l'apartheid n'a cessé d'augmenter. Les événements tragiques de Soweto auraient dû donner au gouvernement d'Afrique du Sud et à la minorité qui l'a élu une leçon sur la futilité d'essayer de supprimer les aspirations légitimes de la majorité sud-africaine et sur le besoin de procéder à des ajustements fondamentaux dans cette société. La leçon ne semble pas avoir été apprise.

Le mois dernier, les noirs Sud-Africains ont pleuré la perte de Steven Biko, un leader éminent du mouvement de prise de conscience noir. Ils reconnaissaient en lui l'homme qui pouvait amorcer un véritable dialogue inter-racial, seul capable d'amener une évolution pacifique de la société sud-africaine. Il est mort dans des conditions inexplicables et de plus en plus suspectes alors qu'il était détenu; c'était la vingtième fois qu'un tel décès se produisait dans les prisons sud-africaines au cours des dix-huit derniers mois. Sa mort, la plus récente de cette déplorable série de fatalités, a déclenché une recrudescence des protestations internationales contre la cruauté de l'apartheid et du système pénitentiaire sud-africain. Plusieurs blancs Sud-Africains ont eux aussi demandé que leur gouvernement procède à une enquête et explique les circonstances de cette mort et des autres apparentées.

Immédiatement après la mort de Biko, l'ambassade du Canada à Pretoria a envoyé un message de condoléances et de sympathie à la Black People's Convention d'Afrique du Sud dont il était le président honoraire de même qu'à sa famille. Un représentant diplomatique canadien a assisté à ses funérailles pour bien marquer la solidarité du peuple canadien avec le peuple d'Afrique du Sud. De plus, le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud a été avisé des préoccupations canadiennes. En fait, des citoyens et des groupements canadiens continuent même maintenant de faire savoir leur affliction devant la mort de Biko et le sort des autres prisonniers politiques sud-africains. Si j'ai parlé plus particulièrement de la mort de M. Biko, c'est qu'elle est l'exemple le plus récent d'une longue et affligeante suite d'abus et de répressions. La persistance du gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud à réprimer les activités politiques légitimes au sein de la majorité sud-africaine conduira à de nouvelles frustrations et actes de violence, et éventuellement à une rupture totale des rapports entre races en Afrique du Sud. Nous engageons le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud à reconnaître ce fait et à prendre des maintenant toutes les mesures nécessaires pour éviter toute nouvelle violence, et à accorder la libération inconditionnelle à tous les prisonniers et détenus politiques afin d'établir un climat dans lequel une évolution pacifique au sein de la société sud-africaine pourra commencer.

du Sud pour la fabrication et l'élaboration d'armes nucléaires. Le Canada, pour sa part, a institué il y a déjà plusieurs années un embargo volontaire sur les livraisons d'armes à l'Afrique du Sud et l'a pleinement respecté. Décreté en 1963, l'embargo a été élargi en 1970 pour englober les pièces de rechange. Le Canada s'est en outre abstenu de coopérer avec l'Afrique du Sud dans le domaine nucléaire.

Les changements majeurs qui s'imposent depuis longtemps en Afrique du Sud ne seront pas tant le résultat de nos attitudes ou de nos gestes que des pressions qui s'exercent au sein même de la société sud-africaine. La communauté internationale ne peut se substituer à la population sud-africaine mais elle peut la secourir fortement. Outre l'appui moral, nous continuerons à répondre de plus en plus largement à ses besoins humanitaires et à l'aider à bénéficier de possibilités d'éducation et de formation qui lui sont actuellement refusées. Nous continuerons en outre à évaluer les moyens de pression internationale susceptibles d'appuyer tous les Sud-Africains, de quelque origine raciale que ce soit, qui cherchent à changer leur société. Ce changement se produira inévitablement. Il reste seulement à savoir comment et quand il se fera: par l'action pacifique de tous les groupes sud-africains oeuvrant ensemble pour élaborer un nouveau régime, ou bien par d'autres actes de violence qui ne manqueront pas de se produire si les aspirations de la majorité ne continuent à rencontrer qu'intransigeance et répression.

2. La journée de solidarité avec les prisonniers politiques sud-africains

A maintes reprises, le gouvernement du Canada a fait part de ses inquiétudes devant la répression dont sont victimes les opposants au régime de l'apartheid en Afrique du Sud et devant la détention et les mauvais traitements qu'on inflige aux prisonniers politiques. Le Canada a la conviction que la dissidence non violente à l'endroit de la politique raciste et injuste de l'apartheid constitue une activité politique légitime et qu'il faut amener l'Afrique du Sud à la reconnaître. Comme la majorité est privée de ses droits politiques, la situation intérieure devient de plus en plus explosive.

Lorsque le Comité spécial de l'ONU contre l'apartheid s'est réuni lors de la trente-deuxième session de l'AGNU afin d'observer la "Journée de solidarité avec les prisonniers politiques sud-africains", M. William C.Y. McGregor, délégué du Canada à la Troisième Commission, a déclaré que le Canada se dit en profond désaccord avec l'attitude de l'Afrique du Sud devant la dissidence politique:

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Nous nous sommes réunis en cette occasion pour faire état de notre affliction quant au sort des hommes, des femmes et des enfants d'Afrique du Sud, de toutes les races, qui ont donné leur vie ou qui ont subi l'emprisonnement, la détention, ou l'exil, simplement à cause de leur lutte pour mettre fin à l'apartheid et à la discrimination raciale en Afrique du Sud. D'année

Par sa militarisation massive, par le rassemblement de troupes et d'armes dépassant largement les exigences que lui impose sa position géographique et par ses intentions peu claires en ce qui a trait à l'armement nucléaire, l'Afrique du Sud met sérieusement en danger les perspectives de stabilité dans la région.

La Conférence mondiale pour l'action contre l'apartheid tenue à Lagos en août dernier a montré à quel point cet état de fait préoccupe la communauté internationale, représentée par 112 délégations nationales, 12 organismes intergouvernementaux, 5 mouvements de libération et 51 organismes privés. Les conclusions unanimes de la communauté internationale on été inscrites dans la Déclaration de Lagos. Celle-ci déclare solennellement que "l'Afrique du Sud appartient à tous ses habitants qu'elles que soient leur race, leur couleur, et leur croyance et que tous ont le droit d'y vivre et d'y travailler dans des conditions de pleine égalité". Elle exprime une ferme conviction que "le système de domination raciste doit être remplacé par le gouvernement par la majorité, tous les habitants devant participer sur un pied d'égalité à toutes les phases de la vie nationale et à la libre détermination du caractère politique, économique et social de leur société ainsi qu'à la libre disposition de leurs ressources naturelles". A cette fin, la Conférence de Lagos fait appel à tous les Etats pour qu'ils soutiennent le peuple sud-africain dans sa lutte légitime pour conquérir ses droits et démanteler le système d'apartheid.

Pour le Canada, le concept du gouvernement par la majorité dans une société démocratique suppose l'absence de domination ainsi que la pleine et égale participation de tous dans le respect intégral des droits des personnes et des minorités. Il appartient aux Sud-Africains d'arrêter les moyens à prendre pour réaliser ces ajustements économiques, sociaux et politiques. Mais il est évident que tous les secteurs de la société doivent participer pleinement au processus de changement. Ce processus sera achevé lorsque la discrimination raciale aura été éliminée et qu'on aura instauré un système économique et politique juste. Il ne saurait l'être lorsque la majorité n'aura vu s'améliorer qu'un tant soit peu sa situation économique et son mode de vie.

Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, dont le Canada est actuellement membre, a pris, le 4 novembre, la grave décision d'imposer un embargo obligatoire sur les livraisons d'armes à l'Afrique du Sud en vertu du Chapitre VII de la Charte des Nations Unies. C'était la première fois qu'une sanction de cette nature était prise contre un Etat membre. Dans sa résolution, le Conseil constatait, "en regard aux politiques et aux actes du gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud, que l'acquisition par l'Afrique du Sud d'armes et de matériel connexe constitue une menace pour le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales". Il demandait à tous les gouvernements de cesser toute livraison à l'Afrique du Sud d'armes, de munitions, de véhicules et de matériel militaires, d'équipement de police paramilitaire et de pièces détachées pour les articles susmentionnés et de cesser également l'octroi de licences pour la fabrication ou l'entretien de ces articles. Il priait également les Etats de s'abstenir de toute coopération avec l'Afrique

Le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud prétend que ces lois, délibérément discriminatoires, mènent à la stabilité, l'harmonie raciale et la prospérité économique de tous. Cet argument ne résiste même pas à l'examen le plus sommaire. Le refus de faire participer les Noirs à la vie politique nationale ne vise, comme l'écrivait récemment un éditeur de New York Times, qu'à reléguer ceux-ci au statut de simples instruments économiques et à leur enlever le contrôle de leur propre destinée.

L'objectif central du régime d'apartheid est évident: la préservation institutionnalisée du statut socio-économique privilégié d'une minorité blanche dans une économie fondée sur la garantie d'une main-d'œuvre bon marché. A l'appui de cet objectif, l'Afrique du Sud a élaboré une théorie de la société et du gouvernement qui se fonde sur la négation des valeurs humaines fondamentales et qui fait fi de l'évolution dans le reste du monde. Comment les dirigeants de ce pays peuvent-ils s'attendre à ce que d'autres gouvernements y voient autre chose qu'une théorie du désespoir alimentant un système d'oppression.

Bravant la répression et les dangers pour leur personne, Mandela, Sobukwe, Biko et maints autres ont lutté pour une évolution pacifique. Préconisant le dialogue entre les communautés raciales d'Afrique australe, ils réclamaient simplement les mêmes droits et des chances égales pour tous, quelle que soit l'appartenance raciale. Comme tant d'autres, ils ont vu leurs droits réprimés, leur presse muselée, leurs organisations pacifiques supprimées et leurs sympathisants, y compris des écoliers, arrêtés, bannis ou détenus et soumis à la cruauté et à la violence.

La perpétuation du système juridique racialement discriminatoire de l'Afrique du Sud est une anomalie de l'histoire. L'apartheid présente maintes affinités de comportement avec les systèmes d'exploitation qui ont dominé le reste du continent africain durant une période coloniale maintenant pratiquement révolue. L'Afrique du Sud n'est toutefois pas un pays colonial mais bien un pays africain peuplé d'ethnies diverses qui sont venues d'Europe, d'Afrique et d'Asie au cours des trois derniers siècles.

Le maintien des politiques d'apartheid du gouvernement d'Afrique du Sud a de sérieuses répercussions pour la paix et la sécurité de l'Afrique australe. Cette région ne pourra atteindre une stabilité durable tant que les questions de la Rhodésie du Sud et de la Namibie n'auront pas été réglées d'une façon acceptable sur le plan international et tant que l'Afrique du Sud elle-même n'aura pas instauré un système de pleine participation politique et de justice économique. Le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud est pourtant décidé à maintenir ses politiques racistes qui sont la source des problèmes de la région. Ses politiques concernant la Rhodésie et la Namibie et son comportement face aux Etats africains voisins se fondent sur une volonté de maintenir le régime d'apartheid à tout prix.

1. La politique d'apartheid du gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud

Chaque session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies voit surgir un débat sur la politique d'apartheid du gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud. Le Canada a toujours rejeté cette politique qui prive la majorité non blanche des Sud-Africains de ses droits fondamentaux. Il considère que la situation en Afrique du Sud est unique en son genre puisque nulle part ailleurs la discrimination raciale n'est institutionnalisée.

M. l'ambassadeur Pierre Charpentier, représentant du Canada, a fait la déclaration suivante lors de la séance plénière de l'Assemblée générale, le 21 novembre 1977.

* * * * *

Notre Assemblée est appelée une fois de plus à étudier la question de l'apartheid. Une fois de plus, semble-t-il, nous sommes appelés à nous pencher sur de nouveaux outrages: Sharpeville, Soweto, décès de Steven Biko dans une prison sud-africaine, début, le 19 octobre dernier, d'une vague de répression, arrestation le 10 novembre de 625 Africains dont 198 enfants. Cette liste qui va s'allongeant d'événements tragiques incite à une réflexion de plus en plus profonde sur les raisons pour lesquelles la question de la politique de l'apartheid en Afrique du Sud est à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale depuis 1948.

La Charte des Nations Unies, que l'Afrique du Sud a signée et qui la lie en vertu du droit international, définit la promotion du respect des droits et libertés fondamentales de tous, sans distinction de race, sexe, langue ou religion, comme l'un des objectifs de cette organisation. Par ailleurs, le droit international accepte que le traitement accordé aux ressortissants d'un pays cesse d'être une question purement interne lorsque se produisent des violations flagrantes des droits de la personne.

Partant de ces postulats, le Canada a sans cesse appuyé les efforts déployés au sein de la Commission des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies et d'autres instances pour enquêter sur les cas d'abus manifestes qu'une vigilance internationale pourrait aider à contenir. Il ne fait certes aucun doute pour nous que la politique d'apartheid de l'Afrique du Sud réclame l'attention des Nations Unies à plusieurs titres.

La situation en Afrique du Sud est vraiment unique au monde. Dans aucun autre pays en effet ne voit-on la grande majorité de la population exclue juridiquement de toute participation aux politiques nationales à cause de sa race. En Afrique du Sud, des lois rédigées par la seule minorité blanche régissent la structure socio-économique du pays. Les droits et perspectives de chaque personne sont régis en fonction de son origine raciale et de la couleur de sa peau.

Unies aient ratifié les principaux pactes des droits de l'homme et qu'un nombre plus petit encore d'Etats aient accepté le protocole facultatif. Les diverses modalités de contrôle et de dénonciation sont trop lentes et trop lourdes pour être véritablement efficaces, outre qu'elles offrent peu d'aide tangible aux victimes.

Pourtant, il est évident que l'on peut et que l'on doit faire davantage de progrès dans les secteurs où les abus sont manifestes et persistants. Il faudrait concentrer nos efforts sur la recherche d'un moyen de veiller au respect de la Déclaration contre la torture votée par l'Assemblée générale en 1975. Il faudrait améliorer les procédures de tamisage des plaintes et d'intervention dans les cas de violation grave, et songer à de meilleures modalités de coordination de toutes les activités de l'ONU pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

Nous reconnaissons que la Charte des Nations Unies oblige les Etats membres à respecter la souveraineté des autres. Mais il n'entre certainement pas en contradiction avec le principe de la non-ingérence de préconiser une reconnaissance plus complète et universelle des obligations prises, elles aussi, en toute liberté: promouvoir et favoriser le respect des droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales pour tous sans distinction de race, de sexe, de langue ou de religion.

Le fait est que sur ce sujet et sur les autres déjà mentionnés, le bilan de l'ONU et des Etats membres est examiné à la loupe et d'un oeil plus critique que jamais auparavant, tout simplement parce que les enjeux sont plus importants qu'ils ne l'ont jamais été.

J'ai fait la critique de certains aspects de nos réalisations passées et des pratiques actuelles. Je ne l'ai pas fait dans le but d'affaiblir l'organisation mais parce que le Canada est persuadé qu'à défaut d'un changement d'attitude marqué de certains membres et des réformes dont la nécessité saute aux yeux, l'érosion de l'efficacité et du prestige des Nations Unies se poursuivra.

Il faut oeuvrer pour cette organisation comme si nos vies en dépendaient. Tel n'est-il pas le cas?

Le Canada a répondu favorablement chaque fois que l'ONU lui a demandé de fournir des troupes pour de telles entreprises car celles-ci représentent, croyons-nous, une contribution importante à la paix mondiale. Cependant, dans mon pays, on se préoccupe de plus en plus de ces interventions. Il y a deux raisons à cela. Tout d'abord, bon nombre des différends qui ont déclenché l'envoi des forces de maintien de la paix ne semblent pas davantage sur le point de se régler qu'il y a dix, vingt ou trente ans. Certes, les questions fondamentales ou épineuses ne peuvent se dénouer du jour au lendemain. Mais nous souhaitons voir, ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas, des preuves que les parties ont la ferme intention de négocier pour mettre un terme à leurs différends.

En second lieu, bien que les deux contingents les plus récents, la Force d'urgence des Nations Unies et la Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le désarmement, soient dûment financées grâce à la cotisation collective, nous ne sommes pas parvenus à une entente générale sur le mode de financement des opérations futures, et la dette de la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre dépasse maintenant les \$50 millions. Si le mode de financement n'est pas adéquat, plusieurs membres de l'ONU ne pourront se permettre de fournir des troupes, ce qui serait néfaste pour l'organisation et pour la notion même du maintien de la paix.

À l'avenir, lorsque le Canada songera à participer à ces opérations, il tiendra compte de deux facteurs. D'abord, les forces maintien de la paix contribuent-elles à un règlement ou ne sont-elles qu'une solution temporaire, voire une façon de perpétuer le problème? Ensuite, les modalités de financement reflètent-elles le désir commun des membres de supporter le fardeau financier et permettent-elles aux fournisseurs de troupes d'être choisis parmi un vaste éventail de pays?

Droits de l'homme

Je ne doute pas que nous entendrons beaucoup parler des droits de l'homme dans les mois qui viennent, et non seulement ici aux Nations Unies. Dans quelques jours, la Conférence sur la révision de l'Acte final d'Helsinki s'ouvre à Belgrade. A titre de signataire, le Canada exposera ses vues à ce moment.

Mais il faut aussi reconnaître que les Nations Unies ont une grande responsabilité dans le domaine des droits de l'homme, responsabilité qui n'a pas toujours été assumée dans sa totalité ou avec efficacité.

L'année dernière, nous avons accueilli avec joie l'entrée en vigueur des pactes sur les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels et sur les droits civils et politiques. Paradoxalement, au moment où ces nouveaux instruments consolident les droits de la personne dans les États qui les ont ratifiés et créent de nouveaux mécanismes pour contrôler le respect des obligations juridiques et morales qui en sont le garant, le fossé entre les idéaux de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et la réalité s'élargit de façon sensible. Il faut déplorer qu'à peine le tiers des membres des Nations

Mais nous ne pouvons attendre la session extraordinaire. C'est maintenant qu'il faut améliorer le système international de non-prolifération, améliorer l'application du TNP et réexaminer les risques et les avantages que présentent divers cycles de fabrication et procédés de traitement des combustibles nucléaires.

S'il est quelque chose de plus terrifiant que l'éventualité d'une escalade rapide des hostilités localisées, c'est le cauchemar d'une prolifération nucléaire débridée avec son cortège d'horreurs. Je comprends difficilement comment l'un ou l'autre des chefs de file peut voir dans l'augmentation du nombre des Etats dotés d'armes nucléaires une contribution à la stabilité mondiale. Il y a longtemps que le Canada, malgré sa compétence reconnue dans le domaine, a rejeté l'option des armements nucléaires. Nous faisons maintenant tous les efforts pour veiller à ce que d'autres fassent de même. Notre coopération nucléaire, sous forme de fournitures ou de technologie, se limitera dorénavant aux pays qui auront signé le Traité de non-prolifération ou qui se seront engagés à appliquer des garanties intégrales. Nous sommes encouragés par le fait que d'autres fournisseurs nucléaires, dont l'Australie et la Suède, ont adopté une ligne analogue. Nous espérons que d'autres suivront.

En effet, le Canada reconnaît que le renchérissement et l'épuisement inévitables des sources d'énergie traditionnelles ne laissent d'autres choix à la plupart des pays que de s'en remettre au nucléaire pour répondre aux demandes d'énergie. Nous convenons également qu'il existe des divergences légitimes sur les moyens les plus sûrs et les plus efficaces d'utiliser les ressources et la technologie nucléaires. C'est le cas même dans les pays dont l'engagement en faveur de la non-prolifération est entier et incontesté.

C'est pourquoi le Canada accueille avec plaisir et accorde son soutien à la proposition du sommet de Londres d'étudier en profondeur les cycles du combustible qui n'utilisent pas le plutonium ou qui améliorent les garanties. Nous félicitons les Etats-Unis pour leurs initiatives dans ce domaine et espérons que tous les pays leurs donneront un appui sans réserve. Ce sujet est beaucoup trop étendu et beaucoup trop important pour être traité en quelques minutes. J'espère que cette Assemblée nous accordera le temps nécessaire pour tenir un débat d'envergure car aucun sujet n'a plus d'importance.

Maintien de la paix

En raison des intérêts particuliers du Canada, j'espère et compte que l'occasion se présentera pour discuter des activités du maintien de la paix de l'ONU. Au Moyen-Orient, à Chypre et en Asie du Sud, des forces de maintien de la paix ou des groupes d'observateurs de l'ONU sont en place. On demandera peut-être bientôt aux Nations Unies d'intervenir au Zimbabwe et en Namibie.

Le Canada croit que tous les pays de cette région sont en droit de s'attendre à plus qu'un nouveau cessez-le-feu ou qu'à une simple cessation officielle de l'état de belligérance. Plus qu'un droit, c'est une nécessité. Pour que s'instaure une paix de ce genre, il faut absolument régler les grandes questions territoriales. Les seules frontières vraiment sûres - celles qui sont librement reconnues par les parties de part et d'autre - ne peuvent être délimitées que par voie de négociation dans le cadre établi par la résolution 242. D'ici là, nous croyons que rien ne devrait être tenté unilatéralement ou illégalement pour modifier ou déterminer prématurément le statut de l'une ou de l'autre partie des territoires occupés. Nous regrettons que de telles mesures soient encore prises sans égard à leurs conséquences sur les perspectives de paix. En outre, il est évident que pour instaurer la paix durable que tous désirent, tout règlement des questions territoriales doit apporter une solution juste, humanitaire et politique aux problèmes des Arabes palestiniens, de sorte qu'ils puissent vivre en paix sans menacer la sécurité des autres pays de la région.

Pareille solution suppose bien entendu que les Arabes palestiniens reconnaissent, clairement et sans équivoque, l'existence permanente d'Israël à leurs côtés. Au cours de cette Assemblée nous devrions insister pour la reprise, le plus tôt possible, des négociations, et ne pas chercher à remplacer par des discussions creuses ou des résolutions partiales, le processus lent et complexe, mais combien essentiel, par lequel les parties en cause doivent régler elles-mêmes leur litige.

Il est évident que la situation au Moyen-Orient a atteint une phase cruciale. Pour tous les intéressés c'est maintenant le moment propice; conscients qu'ils sont des conséquences désastreuses que peuvent entraîner des gestes irréfléchis, prions donc qu'ils agissent avec sagesse.

Nous savons que chaque nouvelle flambée de violence qui éclate dans le monde est une menace en puissance dirigée contre chacun de nous et contre l'humanité. De nos jours, quand couve un conflit il ne faut plus seulement songer à des hostilités circonscrites, si horribles soient-elles; nous devons rappeler à ceux qui seraient tentés de recourir aux armes qu'ils mettent en danger plus que la vie de leur propre peuple. Au fond, chaque coup de feu tire sous l'influence de la colère peut être dirigé contre nous tous. Nous avons le droit et le devoir de nous prononcer à cet égard car, à vrai dire, c'est la paix du Canada et de tous les autres pays du monde qui est en jeu.

Désarmement

C'est pourquoi aucun problème n'a de plus grande importance pour cette Assemblée que le désarmement. Mais aucun sujet n'a moins couronné nos efforts et plus dégénéré nos peuples. La session extraordinaire de l'an prochain nous fournira l'occasion de faire des progrès réels sur la voie du désarmement. Le Canada a coparrainé la résolution demandant sa tenue et présentera des propositions précises pour en assurer le succès.

Il y a certes, des raisons légitimes et complexes qui expliquent pourquoi les négociations ont été si difficiles. On ne peut cependant nier le fait que les vieilles habitudes et les vieux modes de comportement sont difficiles à abandonner et que, comme d'habitude, c'est en agissant avant la conclusion de la Conférence que le Canada et les pays qui l'ont imité ont donné une figure aux Nations Unies et rehaussé la valeur incontestée de la Conférence. On espère que cette façon d'imprimer à tous les participants à la Conférence le sentiment qu'il faut de toute urgence mener à bonne fin les importants travaux qui restent. Il nous a fallu dix ans pour en arriver où nous sommes, et à moins qu'un régime international négocie n'entre en vigueur à très brève échéance, nous risquons de voir nos efforts annulés par une série d'interventions unilatérales.

Paix et sécurité - Afrique australe

Il devrait s'imposer à l'évidence, mais ce n'est pas toujours le cas, que notre lente progression vers une société juste et bien ordonnée repose entièrement sur l'hypothèse fragile que nous pouvons créer et préserver un monde pacifique. Il ne devrait même pas être nécessaire d'argumenter pour défendre cette proposition. Pourtant, nous continuons d'assister à de nouvelles flambées de violence et d'entendre, de la bouche de dirigeants profondément convaincus, que la seule façon de parvenir à leurs fins est de prendre les armes. Cette conviction est aujourd'hui fortement ancrée dans certaines parties de l'Afrique australe.

Nous serons appelés sous peu à discuter du plus récent plan pour l'instauration de la règle de la majorité en Rhodésie. Le Canada appuie ce plan sans réserve non seulement parce que, à nos yeux, il offre une solution juste et équitable mais aussi parce que nous rejetons totalement l'autre voie: l'effusion de sang. Nous devons rester inébranlables dans notre détermination de voir la fin de l'actuel régime minoritaire illégal en Rhodésie et, pour cela, il faut redoubler nos efforts et notre engagement en faveur de moyens pacifiques, faute de quoi, l'issue finale aura des relents d'échec et nous devons arriver à la pénible conclusion que la justice ne s'acquière que par la mort et la destruction.

Moyen-Orient

Au Moyen-Orient, les questions sont encore plus complexes et les dangers pour la sécurité mondiale sont proportionnellement plus grands. Chacun d'entre nous espère que les initiatives et les négociations actuelles seront couronnées de succès. Aujourd'hui comme hier, le Canada exhorte tous les intéressés à se rendre compte des voies qui peuvent conduire à un règlement pacifique et permanent des différends qui existent depuis longtemps. Les intérêts du Canada continuent de s'en tenir au plan de paix dans les résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations Unies. Le droit d'Israël à l'existence, tel que défini par ces résolutions, reçoit notre appui ferme et net. Nous déplorons et continuerons à déplorer tous les efforts déployés dans cette Assemblée et ailleurs pour attribuer à Israël des motifs manifestement faux ou pour déprecier son statut et ses droits au sein des Nations Unies en temps que membre légitime de la communauté mondiale.

fois réaliste et largement acceptable. Dans les semaines à venir, les représentants du Canada ici même, ainsi qu'à d'autres assemblées de l'ONU et de ses institutions, annonceront de nouveaux engagements financiers de la part du Canada envers un grand nombre d'organisations internationales. Je ne vous embarrasserai pas des détails mais j'aimerais quand même dire un mot au sujet de l'aide alimentaire.

La pénurie alimentaire mondiale a pu être atténuée par les bonnes récoltes qu'ont connues de nombreux pays. Néanmoins, les facteurs qui ont engendré cette crise encore récente sont toujours là, et les études effectuées dernièrement s'accordent sur la probabilité d'un déficit au cours des cinq ou dix prochaines années. Pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, on a proposé de constituer une réserve céréalière d'urgence de l'ordre de 500 000 tonnes. Le Canada a déjà annoncé qu'il était disposé à contribuer à la constitution de cette réserve en collaboration avec d'autres donateurs. Je suis maintenant en mesure d'annoncer que, sous réserve de l'approbation du Parlement, nous serions disposés à fournir l'équivalent de 7,5 millions de dollars de céréales vivrières, soit environ 50 000 tonnes ou 10% de l'objectif global.

Nous devons au cours de cette session, mettre en place les mécanismes qui permettront d'élaborer une nouvelle stratégie du développement

international pour la troisième Décennie du développement. Nous avons là une chance unique de prouver que les Nations Unies peuvent toujours être utiles. Ou bien nous profitons de cette chance, ou bien nous laissons nos délibérations se perdre en discours vains et stériles qui mineront la bonne volonté de ceux qui doivent donner et aggraveront l'ampleur de ceux qui doivent recevoir. Choisissons dès maintenant le premier parti.

Droit de la mer

Depuis la dernière fois que j'ai pris la parole devant cette

Assemblée, d'importants événements se sont produits en ce qui concerne la Conférence sur le droit de la mer. Cette conférence historique illustre très bien certains des meilleurs et certains des pires aspects des délibérations et des mécanismes des Nations Unies. Pourtant, sans l'ONU, il fait peu de doute que la gestion et la maîtrise des océans et de leurs ressources auraient dégénéré jusqu'à l'anarchie la plus totale. Cette conférence est donc une des grandes réalisations de l'ONU, tout à l'honneur de ses promoteurs et de ceux qui y participent. Mais le problème, c'est qu'elle progresse avec une lenteur désespérante.

Au cours des douze derniers mois, de nombreux pays, dont le Canada, ont étendu à 200 milles de leurs côtes leur juridiction sur les ressources biologiques de la mer. S'il est vrai que cette mesure repose sur la volonté commune manifestée par les Etats dans les projets de texte présentés à la Conférence, il est vrai également qu'avant d'en arriver là, de nombreux stocks de poissons s'étaient dangereusement épuisés, certains éléments vitaux de l'industrie mondiale de la pêche étaient menacés et de graves conflits éclataient entre des pays traditionnellement amis.

Nous devons également oeuvrer à l'amélioration de l'efficacité des institutions spécialisées. Beaucoup d'entre elles jouissent d'ailleurs d'une très bonne réputation. Mais notre façon de contrôler l'ensemble du système ne donne pas satisfaction. Nous avons été efficaces au chapitre de l'élaboration de nouveaux programmes, mais un peu moins lorsqu'il s'agit de recenser les activités primaires ou d'empêcher le double emploi. Il en est résulté notamment une escalade des coûts. Il y a quelques années, l'un de nos prédécesseurs se plaignait à l'Assemblée que les budgets des contributions du système des Nations Unies avaient doublé en cinq ans. Nous devons donc nous assurer que les budgets sont maintenus à un niveau acceptable et qu'ils ne servent qu'à des secteurs hautement prioritaires.

Un autre problème des institutions spécialisées, c'est qu'elles se sont beaucoup écartées de leur mandat premier pour s'occuper des questions politiques qui relèvent de l'Assemblée générale. Le Canada est déterminé à freiner cette tendance. Nous sommes particulièrement préoccupés par le cas de l'Organisation internationale du travail. Nous respectons l'OIT pour tout ce qu'elle a accompli dans le domaine des droits de la personne et pour son unique contribution au système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble. Nous sommes fort désireux de préserver sa compétence et l'impartialité de ses méthodes de sorte qu'un Etat membre ne soit jamais condamné sans avoir eu droit à une enquête impartiale. Je crois que bon nombre de membres partagent nos vues et oeuvreront de concert à cette fin.

Ces propositions visent principalement à améliorer nos méthodes. Si nous les mettons à l'exécution, et je dois avouer que je ne suis pas du tout convaincu que nous le ferons, nous serions beaucoup mieux placés pour nous attaquer aux problèmes vraiment importants; mais ces problèmes n'en seraient pas pour autant moins complexes.

Questions économiques

Il est maintenant établi que les principales préoccupations de la plupart des membres sont en réalité d'ordre économique, même si elles se manifestent de diverses façons troublantes, y compris en hostilités ouvertes. Les Nations Unies et leurs institutions ont fort à faire si nous voulons nous rapprocher d'un ordre économique mondial plus juste et plus équitable. Les obstacles à franchir sont énormes, le chômage et l'inflation continuent de sévir même dans les pays les plus riches. Tant que la raison ne primera pas, tant que les exigences des uns et les réactions des autres feront fi des réalités économiques actuelles, je dois vous avertir que même le Canada, pour tant loin d'être le moins généreux des pays développés, sera de plus en plus contraint de se pencher sur ses propres maux, allant jusqu'à faire abstraction des conséquences internationales d'un tel geste. Point n'est besoin de vous dire que nous ne sommes pas les seuls dans cette situation.

L'objectif du Canada est de travailler sur les bases que nous avons aidé à jeter en assurant la coprésidence de la CCEI*. Si le climat s'y prête, nous allons travailler fort pour mettre au point une stratégie à la

Jusqu'à présent cette année, le Conseil a débattu plusieurs questions importantes de façon sobre et sensée. Aucun d'entre nous n'oserait toutefois prétendre que le Conseil a fait beaucoup pour renforcer sa position de premier responsable du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales au sein de la structure des Nations Unies. Le Secrétaire général nous a d'ailleurs avertis à juste titre qu'il viendrait peut-être "un temps où l'on aurait désespérément besoin du Conseil, mais où il serait trop faible pour s'acquitter de ses responsabilités". Le problème est imputable non pas à une faiblesse de la structure ou des pouvoirs du Conseil, mais plutôt à un manque de motivation. Afin de lui donner un plus grand sens de finalité, la Charte prévoit des réunions périodiques auxquelles les membres pourraient être représentés par un membre de son gouvernement ou un autre représentant spécialement désigné. De manière remarquable, le Conseil a tenu sa première rencontre du genre à l'occasion des fêtes du 25^e anniversaire. L'Assemblée générale a bien tout l'intention du Conseil d'organiser d'autres réunions du genre, mais rien n'a été fait.

Je propose que le Conseil de sécurité convoque régulièrement des réunions au niveau ministériel. Le choc des idées de quinze ministres pourrait lui insuffler un regain de vie et une nouvelle volonté politique. Au lieu de s'en tenir à un ordre du jour rigide, les participants pourraient discuter librement des grandes questions relatives à la paix et la sécurité internationales à partir d'un rapport spécial du Secrétaire général.

Convocées une ou deux fois l'an plutôt qu'une fois tous les vingt-cinq ans, ces réunions devraient se tenir dans une atmosphère détendue permettant aux ministres, qui ne seraient pas flanqués d'une armée de conseillers, d'échanger leurs vues de façon spontanée. D'ailleurs, la première rencontre pourrait fort bien être consacrée à la recherche de moyens susceptibles de rendre plus pertinents les travaux du Conseil sur les grandes questions de la paix et de la sécurité.

L'ECOSOC

Lorsque je me suis adressé à l'Assemblée l'an dernier, j'ai suggéré que l'on confie un rôle important au Conseil économique et social. Lors de ses sessions du printemps et de l'été, le Conseil a étudié un nombre effarant des questions. Son bilan est pourtant moins brillant dans ce qui devrait être sa tâche principale, soit établir des priorités et coordonner les travaux de cette famille d'organisations dans les domaines économique, social, culturel, éducationnel et sanitaire et dans des domaines connexes. Ma délégation est d'avis que le Conseil devrait tenir des sessions plus fréquentes et plus courtes. Chacune d'entre elles pourrait lui permettre d'approfondir un groupe de sujets et ainsi de parcourir entièrement son agenda en deux ans. De temps à autre, le Conseil devrait également convoquer des rencontres au niveau ministériel afin de passer en revue les grandes questions économiques ou sociales lorsque des considérations politiques justifient ce genre de participation. Je souhaite l'apparition, au sein de tous les organes des Nations Unies, de nouvelles pratiques officielles de consultation et de négociation qui, par l'entremise de groupes de contact, contribueraient à faire de l'ONU une véritable enceinte de négociation.

Si nous voulons faire des progrès dans cette enceinte, il faut mettre un terme aux débats stériles des récentes années dont l'issue est toujours connue d'avance. Si les débats aux Nations Unies ne retrouvent pas leur vitalité, alors de plus en plus les décisions importantes pour la destinée du genre humain seront prises ailleurs, et cette Organisation et la plupart de ses institutions sombreront dans la médiocrité, puis dans un oubli que personne ne regrettera.

Si vous êtes tentés de taxer mon jugement de trop sévère et mes prévisions de trop pessimistes, rappelez-vous objectivement la réaction de bon nombre de nos commentateurs face aux délibérations et aux résolutions de l'ONU. Dans mon pays et partout dans le monde, la réaction a été négative.

Je vous accorde que ces critiques sont souvent fondées sur des préjugés ou l'ignorance. Par ailleurs, nous savons que beaucoup peut être fait et devrait être fait pour accroître l'efficacité des Nations Unies. Voici quelques suggestions et exemples de moyens d'y arriver. La présente session sera saisie de deux grandes questions: celles du Moyen-Orient et de l'Afrique australe. L'an dernier, nous avons adopté 20 résolutions sur le Moyen-Orient et pas moins de 34 sur l'Afrique australe. Qu'est-ce qui a été accompli après tout ce temps, tous ces efforts, sans mentionner toutes ces dépenses? Très peu, assurément, car bon nombre de ces résolutions expriment tout simplement des jugements de valeur sans proposer aucune mesure pratique. En outre, tout le monde savait qu'elles n'avaient aucune chance - ou si peu - d'être appliquées. Pourtant, cette immense et de plus en plus coûteuse machine qu'est l'ONU a adopté non seulement les quelques 50 résolutions que je viens de mentionner mais près de 200 autres, beaucoup du même genre et donc prédestinées à subir le même sort. D'ailleurs, je soupçonne que déjà la poussière s'amoncelle sur le recueil de 400 pages qui contient ces résolutions, la plupart faisant écho, presque mot pour mot, aux délibérations des années précédentes.

Il n'y a pas lieu de se surprendre de l'indifférence avec laquelle les média et le public accueillent leur publication. Paradoxalement, en adoptant davantage de résolutions, nous avons entraîné une diminution au lieu d'un regain d'intérêt. Il ne sera pas facile de changer nos habitudes collectives. Nous devons examiner de près l'ordre du jour afin de résister à la tentation d'y réinscrire automatiquement d'anciens points ou d'en ajouter de nouveaux, moins importants. Nous devons grouper les sujets de discussion de façon que les débats analogues n'aient pas lieu au sein de comités différents. Nous devons également éviter la prolifération de résolutions où les membres font état de leurs aspirations ou objectifs sans proposer de mesures concrètes pour les réaliser. Quelques résolutions courtes, concises et pratiques auront davantage d'effet que la multitude de résolutions répétitives et inefficaces étudiées chaque année.

Le Conseil de sécurité

En tant que membre du Conseil de sécurité une fois au cours de chaque décennie depuis la création de l'ONU, le Canada a accumulé une somme d'expériences non négligeable, mais il a également eu la chance d'examiner les activités du Conseil d'un oeil neuf à chaque renouvellement de mandat.

Le Canada, bien sûr, ne nie pas toute responsabilité devant ces résultats lamentables. Il nous arrive, à nous aussi, d'inverser les priorités et de ne pas être suffisamment conscients de l'urgence de juguler les dangers, anciens et nouveaux, qui menacent l'ordre et la sécurité dans le monde. Mon but n'est pas de tout simplement rejeter le blâme sur autrui pour le plaisir douteux de donner libre cours à mes frustrations. Je dis ceci sachant que beaucoup d'entre vous partagent mon opinion. Ce n'est pas notre engagement qui fléchit; aucun homme sensé n'exposerait volontairement le monde à de plus grandes effusions de sang et au risque d'un holocauste planétaire. Tous, nous désirons la paix et l'ordre dans les affaires internationales.

Pourtant, nous sommes empêtrés dans les méandres de l'histoire, de la peur, de la méfiance et d'antagonismes ancrés. Le plus souvent, l'intérêt particulier l'emporte sur nos efforts pour définir et favoriser des objectifs plus vastes et plus généraux. Je sais que bon nombre, ici et ailleurs, sont d'avis que telle est la réalité des affaires internationales - "le monde réel" - comme ils l'appellent. D'après eux, les imperfections flagrantes sont normales et inévitables compte tenu de la nature humaine et nous devons nous résigner à contenir, sans plus, les manifestations les plus virulentes et les plus dangereuses de l'avidité et de l'irrationalité de l'homme et accepter que le destin du monde soit d'aller de crise en crise. Un scepticisme de bon aloi est justifiable, j'en conviens; mais aux Nations Unies, ce scepticisme débouche trop souvent sur la résignation et une sorte de cynisme professionnel selon lequel toutes les nouvelles initiatives ne sont que des preuves d'une naïveté idéaliste sans lendemain.

Je ne suis pas naïf, je vous l'assure; mais je ne puis accepter - et le Canada non plus - que cette Organisation et ses États membres soient impuissants à éliminer à la source les causes de ces tensions considérables qui nous forcent tous à vivre dans l'attente d'un désastre imminent.

Beaucoup d'entre nous semblent également croire que si n'importe quel pays peut provoquer l'étincelle qui met le feu, seules les super-puissances ont les moyens de l'alimenter ou de l'éteindre. Il est bien entendu que les grandes nations nantes ont un rôle majeur à jouer et leurs initiatives ne devraient pas être automatiquement accueillies par la méfiance. Mais quand des petits pays ne font rien ou adhèrent aveuglément à un bloc ou à un autre, ils se soustraient à leurs responsabilités et tournent en ridicule l'ONU et l'occasion qu'elle leur offre de participer à un débat ouvert, libre et raisonnable.

Quelque impressionnante que soit l'issue des décisions et des mesures prises au niveau des superpuissances, nous ne devons jamais oublier que ce ne sont pas elles qui ont embrasé tous les points chauds de la terre. Bon nombre de petits pays ont montré qu'ils étaient parfaitement capables, à eux seuls, de nous causer des problèmes à tous. De telles actions sont d'ailleurs d'autant plus répréhensibles lorsqu'elles risquent d'alimenter ou même favoriser l'accroissement des tensions entre l'Est et l'Ouest.

Chaque année, la session de l'Assemblée générale commence par un débat général. Presque tous les membres de la communauté internationale profitent de l'occasion pour présenter leurs vues sur les grandes questions internationales de l'heure. Le 26 septembre 1977, M. Don Jamieson, secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, exprimait les vues du Canada.

* * * * *

Je suis heureux d'être l'un des premiers orateurs à pouvoir vous féliciter de votre élection. La délégation la considère comme un tribut à la fois à vos qualités personnelles et au rôle important de votre pays au sein des Nations Unies. En acceptant de présider non seulement nos délibérations annuelles cet automne, mais aussi l'importante session extraordinaire de l'an prochain sur le désarmement, vous avez endossé une lourde responsabilité. Je sais que vous en acquitterez avec distinction.

Cette année, l'Assemblée accueille deux nouveaux membres, la République du Djibouti et la République socialiste du Viet Nam. En sa qualité de membre du Conseil de sécurité, le Canada a eu le plaisir de recommander l'admission de ces deux pays, et nous nous réjouissons à la pensée de travailler en collaboration avec eux au sein de cette organisation.

L'efficacité des Nations Unies

A l'instar de bien d'autres participants à ce débat, j'ai reçu une multitude de conseils sur ce que je devrais dire pour contribuer à résoudre les nombreux problèmes auxquels nous devons faire face. Ce fut une expérience désolante.

Je suis arrivé à la conclusion que je pourrais relire, mot pour mot, mon discours de l'an dernier et que personne ne s'en apercevrait ni ne s'en préoccuperait! La triste vérité, c'est que toutes les questions sérieuses que d'autres et moi-même avons soulevées l'an dernier demeurent sans réponse et que certaines d'entre elles représentent pour la paix et la sécurité une menace encore plus grande qu'il y a douze mois. L'année dernière n'a pas été féconde pour les Nations Unies.

Il ne faut pas s'étonner que, désabusés et cyniques devant notre incapacité à trouver les réponses promises aux questions de vie ou de mort, dans bien des cas, nos propres concitoyens et des millions de gens de par le monde ne se préoccupent plus de nos délibérations.

Il me peine de porter un tel jugement. Aucun pays n'a appuyé avec plus de constance que le Canada les principes des Nations Unies. Nous n'avons pas à rougir du bilan de notre activité dans cette enceinte ni de l'attitude de peuple canadien. Le Canada a accepté des responsabilités au chapitre du maintien de la paix, joué un rôle de premier plan à l'occasion du Dialogue Nord-Sud et prêté un juste concours à toutes les initiatives de l'ONU. Le Canada et les Canadiens se sont mérité le droit d'être entendus et à leur avis, le travail des Nations Unies n'est pas satisfaisant.

CANADA À LA XXXII^e AGNU

1^{ère} PARTIE

I. LE CANADA A LA TRENTE-DEUXIEME SESSION DE L'AGNU

Chaque année, le 24 octobre, le monde entier célèbre la Journée des Nations Unies. Dans son message de 1977 au secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Kurt Waldheim, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, l'honorable Don Jamieson, a exprimé les vœux du Canada à l'occasion de cette journée et a renouvelé l'assurance de notre soutien à l'Organisation. Son allocution est une introduction parfaite à une revue des activités du Canada au cours de la trente-deuxième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. En voici le texte:

Au nom du gouvernement et du peuple du Canada, je désire vous transmettre ainsi qu'à tout le personnel nos meilleurs vœux à l'occasion du trente-deuxième anniversaire de la fondation de l'Organisation.

Dans le rapport que vous présentez cette année aux membres des Nations Unies, vous avez mis en garde contre le danger que les gouvernements perdent confiance dans les institutions internationales si les discussions qui s'y tiennent ne donnent pas de résultats constructifs. Vous nous avez rappelé qu'il est facile de blâmer les institutions internationales pour des manquements qui découlent souvent directement de politiques ou d'actions gouvernementales contradictoires et vous nous avez exhortés à faire preuve de modération et de sagesse politique.

Le Canada a pris à coeur votre mise en garde. Nous sommes en effet convaincus que si tous les membres ne s'unissent pas pour accroître l'efficacité des Nations Unies, les décisions importantes qui touchent le sort de l'humanité seront prises ailleurs et l'Organisation perdra tout son sens, ce qui, aux yeux du Canada, l'un des membres fondateurs et des principaux défenseurs de l'ONU, serait une tragédie.

Je peux vous assurer que le Canada fera tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour faciliter à l'ONU l'exécution du mandat qui lui a été confié aux termes de la Charte et qui demeure aujourd'hui aussi essentiel pour l'humanité qu'il l'était en 1945.

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Le Canada à la XXXII^e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies

L'objet de la présente publication est de mettre à la disposition

du public un outil de référence pratique donnant un aperçu du mode de

fonctionnement et des travaux des Nations Unies et, en particulier, de la

délégation du Canada à la trente-deuxième session de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU.

La Charte des Nations Unies a créé six principaux organes :

l'Assemblée générale, le Conseil de sécurité, le Conseil économique et

social, le Conseil de tutelle, la Cour internationale de Justice et le Secré-

tariat. L'Assemblée générale est au centre du système des Nations Unies :

elle reçoit et étudie les rapports des autres organes de l'ONU, dont le

Conseil de sécurité. Elle tient sa réunion annuelle de la fin septembre à la

fin décembre et donne à tous les Etats membres l'occasion de discuter des

problèmes mondiaux et de faire des recommandations.

Le Canada participe activement aux débats de l'Assemblée générale.

Des membres de la délégation ont fait un grand nombre de déclarations sur

quantité de sujets lors de la trente-deuxième session. On retrouvera ici les

principales déclarations sur les questions qui préoccupent le plus le Canada.

On peut se procurer dans leur forme intégrale toutes les déclarations de la

trente-deuxième session de l'AGNU et obtenir des renseignements supplé-

mentaires sur le rôle du Canada à l'ONU en écrivant à la Direction des rela-

tions publiques, ministère des Affaires extérieures, Edifice Lester B.

Pearson, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0G2.

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the United Nations Political and Institutional Division,
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NOTE

This booklet provides the public with a compact reference on Canada's activities and policies at the 33rd Session of the UN General Assembly. It contains extracts from important Canadian statements and other information about Canada and the United Nations. A short introductory and summary paragraph normally precedes the extracts. Complete texts of several of the Canadian statements and more information about Canada at the UN may be obtained from the Domestic Information Programs Division (FID), Department of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G2.

Canada at the 33rd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada



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FOREWARD

UNITED NATIONS DAY 1978

In his United Nations Day message to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on October 24, 1978, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, spoke about Canada's interest in disarmament, Namibia, UN effectiveness and adaptability, human rights and development. Here is part of Mr. Jamieson's UN Day message:

The Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament proclaimed the week of October 24th as "one devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament". You, yourself, have reminded us that "no other forum can fulfil the requirement of universal involvement that the present situation demands".

The Government and people of Canada have found a basis for renewed faith in and optimism about the workings of the United Nations this past year as a result of the outcome of the attention devoted to disarmament. We view with satisfaction the fact that world leaders and other representatives used this occasion to transcend their own particular interests in order to join together to pursue effective measures of disarmament through negotiations and agreement. With other member states, Canada will participate with new hope in the negotiation of multilateral disarmament agreements, based on the program of action approved by the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

We are about to conclude our fourth term on the Security Council. We have sought, during our tenure on the Council, to help the United Nations to deal with conflicts in many parts of the world and we look forward, in particular, to positive results that may be achieved in Namibia. I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you on October 20, on behalf of my Western colleagues, in order to bring you up to date on the results of our talks in Pretoria on the question of Namibia.

Canada also shares the concern described in your report that the UN must make an effort "to find new procedures to match the speed, diversity and sheer complexity of modern life". It is important that the operations of the UN be understood and respected in member states. Our current procedures do not always help to encourage such understanding. In addition, Canada will continue to give close attention to the efforts in the United Nations to improve the rights of ordinary people throughout the world, and to narrow the gap between the standards of living enjoyed by those who live in developed and developing countries.

PART I

CANADA AT UNGA XXXIII

**A. GENERAL DEBATE: UN SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, addressed the 33rd regular session of the General Assembly on September 26, 1978. He first stressed three key international issues: problems in Southern Africa, the Middle East dispute and violations of human rights. Mr. Jamieson reviewed recent developments concerning an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibian question, and urged the South African government and Namibian leaders to reconsider the South African decision to proceed unilaterally with elections in Namibia. He mentioned Security Council actions and related Canadian policy towards South Africa. Mr. Jamieson also discussed Canada's position regarding the situation in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Here is what he said about the problems in southern Africa.

Eighteen months ago I joined my colleagues from the USA, the UK, France and the Federal Republic of Germany in a concerted effort to bring about an internationally acceptable settlement in Namibia. Since that day a great deal of progress has been made. Painstaking negotiations, and the personal participation of foreign ministers at key junctures in the negotiating process, have demonstrated what can be achieved when political will and a determination to succeed are brought to bear upon seemingly intractable problems. The Western Five members of the Security Council were able to draw up a compromise proposal which I was privileged to introduce on April 25 to the Assembly's Special Session. At that same time, I was able to announce South Africa's acceptance of the plan. In July, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) also accepted the Western plan and we were thus able with the full co-operation of the parties and the active support of the African Front-line States to take in the Security Council the first step towards the full implementation of our proposals. It was, therefore, with considerable optimism and satisfaction that we followed the progress of the Special Survey Mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Namibia, under the leadership of his Special Representative, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari.

When, on the basis of the findings of that Mission, the Secretary-General published his report and his recommendations as to how best he could discharge the mandate given to him by the Security Council, we had every reason to believe that the United Nations finally had in its hands the instrument capable of putting an end to 30 years of controversy and of bringing Namibia to independence in an internationally acceptable manner. It was, therefore, with shock and dismay that we heard last week of the South African Government's decision to proceed unilaterally with elections in the territory.

Neither of the reasons invoked by the South African Government is valid. First, I wish to declare most categorically that the Secretary-General's report is fully in line with the original Western proposal. That report is a professional assessment of the human and financial means required to perform the tasks which our proposal calls for. Secondly, apart from a few extreme elements, all of those who have a claim to represent sectors of the Namibian population have clearly expressed their acceptance of UN involvement in the independence process. We simply cannot accept that there is now a need for some form of further consultation.

Mr. President, we are once more facing a grave situation. Our organization is now in a position to undertake the task of bringing to independence, through peaceful means, a new nation. We must urge those who wish to stand in the way of such a noble enterprise to reconsider their decision. The South African government must realize that its defiance of the will of the international community, particularly when that Government has been so closely involved in a long negotiations process, cannot be tolerated. To those leaders inside Namibia who are being led to believe that they can solve their problems through some sham electoral procedure, I can only say: think of the future of your country. Make no mistake: a so-called government chosen through the so-called elections currently envisaged by the Administrator General will never be recognized internationally. It is not too late and I sincerely hope that all concerned will reconsider their course of action.

South Africa

In November 1977, the Security Council imposed a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa, the first time the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter had been invoked against a Member State. This step confirmed a policy voluntarily observed by Canada since 1963. The invocation of Chapter VII of the Charter has rightly been regarded as a grave decision, taken only after the most serious consideration and a careful weighing of the implications. This decision therefore reflects our belief that the perpetuation of the apartheid system will result in a continuing deterioration of peace and stability in southern Africa.

Canada has also expressed its support for a call to governments to review their economic relations with South Africa. Although this element was not incorporated into a Security Council resolution, the Canadian Government nevertheless decided to take certain steps. On December 19, 1977, for example, I announced that Canada was phasing out Government involvement in commercial relations with South Africa and would issue a code of conduct to govern the behaviour of Canadian companies with operations in South Africa. The Canadian Government will continue to keep its general relations with South Africa under review.

Zimbabwe

Mr. President, my government is much concerned too with the situation in Zimbabwe. We had hoped that the Anglo/American proposals and subsequent action by the Security Council would lead to general agreement. The attempt to follow a different path has had no success, and the country now faces increasing bloodshed and uncertainty. A continuation of the war would also have the gravest consequences for the stability of the region as a whole.

Clearly, an early meeting of all parties to the conflict is essential if there is to be any hope of securing a peaceful settlement on the basis of the generally accepted Anglo/American plan. Canada continues to hope that the plan might still be successful and would be willing, in such circumstances, to offer appropriate assistance.

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Next, the Secretary of State for External Affairs talked about recent events in the Middle East. He urged the member states of the UN to promote the goal of peace in the Middle East and mentioned possible Canadian contributions in the future.

Middle East

All of us must be heartened by the remarkable progress achieved over the past year towards a just solution to the Middle East conflict. President Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem less than a year ago and the warm reception given to him by Prime Minister Begin and the Israeli people have had a dramatic sequel in the accords at Camp David. The Government of Canada has sent its congratulations to President Carter, President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin for this act of statesmanship. The prospect of a real and durable peace is now much closer, although serious issues remain to be resolved.

Canada supported and encouraged the negotiating process begun in Jerusalem. We welcomed the bold initiative of President Carter in again bringing the heads of government of Israel and Egypt together at Camp David and we endorse the agreements reached there. They are a milestone on the long road to peace, a road which Canadian soldiers have watched over for more than twenty years.

The deliberations of this Assembly should serve to bolster confidence between the parties and to facilitate their negotiations. We must try to avoid recriminations and polemics, now that serious negotiations are under way. My plea is that we make an effort to moderate passions, to encourage constructive action in the area, and to strengthen the prestige and competence of the UN in the search for solutions. We do not know what the ultimate shape of a peace settlement might be. It might make provision for international involvement to assist in the implementation of its terms. Canada would consider very seriously a request to make an appropriate contribution to such an enterprise. Canada also hopes that other aspects of the problem will be addressed in the context of resolutions adopted by the Security Council. It may well be that generous financial contributions from the international community will be required; here too, Canada will certainly be prepared to assist within the limits of its capacity.

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Mr. Jamieson also emphasized the need for all governments to observe their commitment to fundamental human rights. He called on the UN to investigate the human rights situation in Democratic Kampuchea and urged all states to alleviate the plight of Indochinese refugees. With respect to human rights, he also discussed international terrorism and the Bonn Declaration on Hijacking. Extracts from Mr. Jamieson's UN speech continue:

Human Rights

A third question demanding immediate attention, and action, is the lack of progress we have made in the United Nations in the protection of human rights throughout the world. A tragic example of this is the situation in Democratic Kampuchea. On September 8 my government brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights a detailed public report which was based on a series of voluntary statements made to Canadian representatives by individual Kampuchean refugees, a great many of whom had left Democratic Kampuchea recently. The testimony of the refugees clearly supports allegations from a variety of other sources that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has systematically violated the fundamental human rights of its citizens, and that the repression and the killing are continuing. This situation cries out for the kind of effective action that this organization should be able to provide.

The Canadian government considers that an immediate investigation of the human rights situation in Democratic Kampuchea should take place. I urge members of this Assembly to support our recommendation to the Commission on Human Rights to take such action. I also ask members of the Assembly to consider their obligations to the increasing numbers of refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea that are now under the care of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Human rights is a problem of international dimensions. Their recognition and promotion, as the Secretary General reminds us, "is a legitimate concern of the world community". The new prominence that human rights has acquired is part of the natural evolution of an international system. Like so many other concerns, the concern about human rights can no longer be contained behind national boundaries. It is not a matter of laying down to governments how they should fashion their political or economic systems. It is simply a matter of making certain that governments observe the fundamental decencies of civilized life to which they have all pledged allegiance.

The issue of human rights will not go away. We have a clear choice. We can decide that the United Nations must face the issue squarely, or we will be forced to go elsewhere to seek a tolerable international consensus. In the view of the Canadian government the choice is clear. We believe that the United Nations is ideally equipped to evaluate objectively, dispassionately and impartially allegations of human rights violations. The better it is seen to function, the more confidence this Organization will command and the less individual governments will feel bound to call for action against others for gross and persistent violations of human rights.

Human rights can be violated in many ways, but surely one of the most despicable is international terrorism. Resolution 32/8 adopted by consensus at the last session of the General Assembly dealt with a specific aspect of terrorism -- hijacking. That resolution called on governments to take joint and separate action to ensure the safety of civil aviation and it was strongly endorsed by the Canadian delegation. We have continued to stress the need for further international action to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister Trudeau's initiative in developing and presenting a declaration on hijacking at the Bonn Summit in July clearly underlined Canada's commitment to take action to deal with this problem. The declaration commits the seven governments to suspend air links with countries which do not extradite or prosecute hijackers who come within their jurisdictions. Participants at the Bonn meeting urged other governments to associate themselves with this commitment. Many governments have indicated that they are prepared to do so. We urge all other members of the international community to follow this course as well.

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Canada was elected to its fourth term (1977-78) as a member of the Security Council. Previous Canadian membership was in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68. The Secretary of State for External Affairs continued his speech by criticizing the passivity of the Security Council. He proposed periodic meetings of the Security Council at the ministerial level and suggested the size of the Council be reconsidered. Mr. Jamieson's remarks follow.

Security Council

The Council is too passive. All too frequently it turns a blind eye to situations which clearly constitute a threat to international peace and security. It continues to ignore its responsibility under the Charter to try to head off such threats before they arise. In my statement before this Assembly a year ago, I expressed the belief that informal and private exchanges between political leaders represented on the Council would help it to fulfil its responsibilities. In all candour I must report that we found that some of our colleagues were opposed to this approach. However, I continue to be convinced of the value of the concept of periodic meetings of the Council at ministerial level. Such meetings could give the Council the high-level political direction that is essential if it is to take the initiative in preserving peace when conflict is anticipated, as well as restoring it when conflict has occurred. Mr. President, I know that I am not alone in expressing these views, and I urge those members of the Council, present and future, who share them, not to give up their efforts to have the Council fulfil its role as envisioned in the Charter.

I also think that it is time to consider again the size of the Council. In 1965, when the membership was increased from 11 to 15, there were 118 members of the UN. Now there are 150. Many states which would contribute well to the work of the Council must wait a generation before they can hope to serve.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs also reviewed the Special Session on Disarmament, peacekeeping and peacemaking, economic and social questions and the Law of the Sea. The following paragraphs are portions of Mr. Jamieson's UN speech on the various topics.

Disarmament

The Disarmament Session adopted by consensus a program of action that clearly identified the most urgent negotiating tasks, including vigorous pursuit of measures to curb the nuclear arms race, the conclusion of a nuclear test ban treaty, and negotiation of an effective agreement on chemical weapons. Proposals made by my Prime Minister, and by other leaders, are under active discussion in many capitals. The Session's final document is the most authoritative statement of views, aspirations and objectives ever produced on the subject of arms limitation and reduction.

Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

Over the years, Canada has joined many other countries in supporting UN peacekeeping missions. We have supplied military or other personnel for every UN peacekeeping force which has taken the field, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) established last March. The Council acted promptly and wisely in deciding to insert a UN force into the troubled situation which has prevailed in Southern Lebanon. The organization and subsequent conduct of UNIFIL is a tribute not only to the skilful diplomacy of the Secretary-General and his staff but to the readiness of member states from most regions of the world to help with UN peacekeeping. We cannot overlook, however, that UNIFIL has encountered problems in fulfilling all the terms of its mandate, and that the Lebanese Government has not yet been able fully to restore its sovereignty. The future success of UNIFIL will depend on the

forebearance and goodwill of all the parties involved, as indeed on the extent to which current and potential contributors to UNIFIL can plan their participation.

States which contribute contingents to peacekeeping forces are bound to be influenced by their perceptions of the kind of cooperation these troops receive from the parties. They will be influenced too by the kind of support which these operations receive from the rest of the membership, especially the permanent members of the Security Council. I note with regret that two permanent members have said they will not help pay for UNIFIL.

My country is unusually sensitive to the need for the UN to improve its advance planning arrangements for peacekeeping. It was only with considerable dislocation of our own requirements that we were able to supply specialized personnel for UNIFIL, and then only for six months. I urge all member states to consider again the earmarking of personnel, services and equipment for this kind of contingency. If the Secretary-General is to carry out the instructions given to him by the Security Council, which are usually based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, he must have the widest possible freedom to select the resources required. The lack of readily available communications and logistics personnel is particularly regrettable. It is more than time, Mr. President, that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations make firm recommendations on these questions.

Canada has a direct interest in a solution of the Cyprus problem. Canadian contingents have been in Cyprus, as part of the UN force, for fourteen years. Some of our soldiers are now doing their fourth tour of duty on the island. Many Canadians are beginning to feel that the continued presence of the force, instead of paving the way for a solution, may be a factor impeding it.

The history of Cyprus, as an independent and sovereign member of the international community, has been troubled. I believe that no useful purpose would be served in drawing up a ledger of responsibility for events that now lie in the past. What the international community has a right to expect of the people of Cyprus is that they use the resourcefulness and resilience they share with their Mediterranean neighbours, and such goodwill as still obtains, to draw up a new blueprint for their national existence in which all the parties will see their interests tolerably guaranteed. Given the legacy of the past, this will not be an easy enterprise. Nor will it, in my judgment, be achievable at all unless the process of negotiation between the two communities is made continuous. Otherwise, the momentum that has at one point or another been built up will inevitably be dissipated. The good offices of the Secretary-General are available to the parties. I would urge them to take full and prompt advantage of them.

Economic and Social Questions

We also expect this Assembly to address and influence those economic and social questions which are so vital to the welfare of our peoples. Peace and security will remain distant goals unless the basic economic and social needs of mankind receive adequate attention.

The industrialized countries account for a major share of international economic activity and their policies, therefore, have a particular impact upon the health of the world economy. We know that the recent performance of our industrial economies has not been good enough. The

leaders of seven major industrialized countries met just over two months ago and agreed on measures which they would take, individually and collectively, to improve this performance. My own government has since announced a series of measures designed to strengthen the growth of the Canadian economy. These efforts to improve our national economic performance are not inward-looking. On the contrary, my government remains convinced that a truly open world trading system provides the best framework for sustained economic growth for all of us. It also remains convinced that the problems of the industrialized world can best be solved by means which benefit all countries, developed and developing alike.

There is no quick or easy solution to current domestic or international economic difficulties, particularly those of the world's poorest countries, but some of the imperatives are clear. We must improve economic growth to enhance the international economy's ability to help meet the aspirations of developing countries for a more just economic order. We must resist pressures for self-defeating protectionism. We must bend every effort to a successful conclusion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, including satisfactory benefits for developing countries as well as for the world's principal traders.

Mr. President, frank and open exchanges on vital problems affecting the world economy must take place here. But if the General Assembly is to play its proper role in the process of working out equitable solutions to these problems, we need to clarify the mandate of the Committee of the Whole established under Resolution 32/174 and to make that Committee work.

The dialogue on economic issues continues on many fronts. Some progress is apparent. Prospects for a new Food Aid Convention have improved. Canada will participate actively and constructively in the resumed negotiations on a Common Fund for Commodities and we are confident progress can be made there as well. The calendar for 1979 is very challenging: the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD V) in Manila, the World Conference on Science and Technology for Development in Vienna, the need to develop a new International Development Strategy for the 1980's and beyond. Canada has a deep interest in each of these events. This General Assembly session should contribute to their preparation as well as to the preparation of such events as the proposed World Conference on Renewable Sources of Energy. I invite delegations to help to keep us on the path of consensus in this process. Progress on all of these issues is at times frustratingly slow, but we must persist in our efforts until we succeed.

Law of the Sea

Over the past year the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has made important progress towards adoption of a comprehensive oceans treaty. I am particularly encouraged by the improvements in the Informal Composite Negotiating Text on the prevention and control of vessel source pollution. The new text does not yet fully meet my government's objectives in this field. Nevertheless, it reflects an increasing awareness by the international community of the need for a more balanced sharing of coastal and flag state rights and duties. Most of the major elements of a global oceans treaty are now virtually

agreed. What remain are the most difficult "hard-core" issues relating primarily to an international system for deep seabed mining, and the translation of the common heritage concept into an equitable system for extracting the minerals of the deep ocean bed. We cannot afford to let the Conference fail, particularly now that it has accomplished so much and homeport is within sight.

Canada agrees however that the Conference must be brought to a conclusion as soon as possible. While an arbitrary deadline could impede, rather than expedite, the work of the Conference, we believe that the negotiations should end during the course of 1979. This would lead, we hope, to the adoption of a draft treaty in the early part of 1980. Canada will give its full support to the attainment of this objective.

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The Secretary of State concluded his speech by touching on the challenge of UN member states to ensure the effectiveness of the Organization's activities. Mr. Jamieson said:

Despite its flaws and failures, the United Nations binds us to certain basic principles which are as valid now as they were in 1945. This organization has stood for a third of a century as witness to the ideal of the common accountability of every nation for enlarging the security prosperity and dignity of all mankind.

The challenge is to ensure that the UN system responds to the complex and changing environment in which we live. Our basic principles must not be encrusted with bureaucratic procedure. The momentum of this institution must be towards the issues of the day, not away from them. I am confident we will meet this challenge.

B. POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

1. DISARMAMENT

On November 21, 1978 before the First Committee of the General Assembly, Mr. G.A.H. Pearson, Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs commented briefly on, among others, the following subjects: the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), the Comprehensive Test Ban, the cessation of the production of fissionable material, studies on questions related to disarmament, the reduction of military spending and chemical weapons. He also mentioned the "strategy of suffocation" outlined by Prime Minister Trudeau during the Special Session on Disarmament. The following paragraphs were extracted from Mr. Pearson's statement.

To prevent war and to maintain international stability, most members of the United Nations believe that they must be prepared to defend themselves, either singly or collectively. This means that unless and until there is a radical change of attitudes amongst peoples and governments, which we cannot realistically anticipate soon, the goal of general and complete disarmament is bound to continue to seem a distant one.

Deterrence has been an important, perhaps decisive, factor in preventing a global war during the past three decades, but there is no assurance that deterrence will continue indefinitely to provide stability if the nuclear arms race continues. The appearance of new, more accurate and more efficient systems of weapons may upset the present balance or create perceptions and fears that it will do so. At the same time, the proliferation of nuclear weapons could increase the risk of war by accident or miscalculation, as well as making arms control agreements more difficult to achieve and verify. In addition, new weapons can erode the viability of, and confidence in, existing arms control treaties. Continuing development and production of nuclear weapons is fraught with such dangers that at some point in the near future the factors weighing against the use of nuclear weapons may be undermined.

We believe there cannot be any long-term solution to the problem of horizontal proliferation unless the two major nuclear powers succeed in halting and reversing vertical proliferation, as they are pledged to do by Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Even in the short term, failure by the USA and the USSR to reach agreement to curb substantially their strategic nuclear weapons systems can seriously jeopardize the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. We know that the two major nuclear weapons powers are conscious of these realities; otherwise they would not be committed to seeking agreement in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. We understand, too, that the SALT negotiations deal with the vital security interests of the USA and the USSR and their allies, and that in these circumstances progress cannot easily be made. However, we must confess that we find the pace of these negotiations very slow in view of the vital interest that we all have in their successful conclusion. Canada reiterates its earnest hope that the talks will soon lead to agreement.

I wish to repeat here the views of my government on the Comprehensive Test Ban, which was the first of the four points outlined by my Prime Minister in his "strategy of suffocation" to arrest the dynamic of the nuclear arms race:

- a treaty prohibition of nuclear tests, with effective verification to provide adequate assurance of compliance, would be an additional qualitative restraint on the nuclear weapons development process and thus have an impact on vertical proliferation;
- as a multilateral treaty to which non-nuclear weapons states as well as nuclear weapons states might adhere, it would also have value in reinforcing the international system to prevent horizontal proliferation,
- Canada believes that a comprehensive test ban should be pursued as a matter of urgency as stipulated in paragraph 51 of the final document of the Special Session. We understand that the negotiations now being pursued by the USA, the UK and the USSR are close to conclusion and we can look forward to early consideration of the results in the Committee on Disarmament.

On many occasions, and most recently during the Special Session, Canada and many other states have drawn attention to the fact that agreement on the cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes would also contribute to the ending of the nuclear arms race. We welcome the explicit recognition of this approach in paragraph 50 of the final document of the Special Session on Disarmament. Obviously, as is the case with many other measures in the disarmament field, the usefulness of such an agreement would depend on the application of effective verification measures, which in this instance should include acceptance of full-scope or comprehensive safeguards under the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) or some equivalent system.

The objective, in our opinion, should be the elaboration by the Committee on Disarmament of a multilateral treaty, to which both non-nuclear and nuclear weapon states might adhere, prohibiting the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and prohibiting the diversion for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices of any fissionable material produced in connection with peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Such a measure would have the advantage of focussing in the same instrument on both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, before negotiations could proceed very far in the multilateral phase, it would be desirable for the two major nuclear powers, and any other nuclear weapons states willing to participate, to explore the "cut-off" aspects, including the verification aspects applying particularly to nuclear weapons states. Verification backed up by full-scope safeguards would ensure that all parties to such an eventual treaty would be bound essentially to the safeguards accepted by the non-nuclear weapons states party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Canada therefore believes that it would be appropriate, especially in view of the renewed interest shown in this subject, that this question be given early consideration in the Committee on Disarmament.

Two other elements of the "strategy of suffocation" would be agreements to stop flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles, and to

limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on all new strategic nuclear weapons systems, subject to the proper verification procedures. Even if at the present moment concrete steps toward implementation of the whole strategy may be premature, nevertheless they can and should be studied, either individually or as a part of a concerted approach. The Special Session has already commissioned a somewhat similar study on disarmament and international security. We are also looking forward to the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board concerning a United Nations studies program. We would expect that a part of this program would include the constructive proposal by Sweden for a study of nuclear weapons systems. Such a study would provide a further opportunity to examine the kind of approach proposed by Canada.

Clearly, balanced reductions of military expenditures in a bilateral, regional or even worldwide context would also have considerable benefits. The development of a standardized system of reporting could open the way to the possibility of creating measures for the reduction of military expenditures. We ought to consider the possibility of multilateral discussions on how and in what fields of military spending these reductions could be implemented. Necessary conditions for progress would be greater willingness to make information available and the need for adequate verification. I must here express disappointment that support for a pilot study of a standardized reporting system has been limited so far to a very small number of countries. Without the participation of countries from different geopolitical groups, including all nuclear weapons states, any such test will be of limited value.

The negotiation of a treaty on chemical weapons has been given high priority by this Assembly for many years. Intensive bilateral discussions are going on between the USSR and the USA to produce, as requested, a joint initiative for submission to the Conference on Disarmament. We understand that progress is being made, but that it may take some time before the key elements of a treaty can be tabled in the Committee on Disarmament by their two co-sponsors. We would like to express here the strong hope that, when the Committee meets, it will start work on areas where there is already a large measure of agreement, such as the scope of a future treaty, whether or not the bilateral negotiations are complete. It is obvious that there will be considerable work to be done before we begin the negotiation of a multilateral treaty on chemical weapons. We believe that the Committee on Disarmament could usefully begin this task by establishing a working group that, for example, could deal with the definition of chemical agents.

2. PEACEKEEPING

On November 30, 1978 the Representative of Canada, Mr. Maurice Dupras, M.P., delivered the Canadian statement in the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly on "the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects". He spoke about the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the peacekeeping and "peacemaking" process. Mr. Dupras also touched on the relatively limited number of countries in the peacekeeping club, the question of financing, other practical measures to improve peacekeeping operations and a draft resolution supported by Canada. Portions of the Canadian Representative's statement follow:

United Nations peacekeeping operations have served this Organization well in its task of maintaining international peace and security. Since 1956, when the first UN peacekeeping force was established, the presence of blue berets has helped reduce tensions in crises with the ultimate intent of creating the right climate for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in question. Since 1973, three new peacekeeping forces have taken the field. In March of this year, the Security Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In September, the Council authorized the creation of a United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) to serve in Namibia. Other UN peacekeeping operations and observer missions continue in the Middle East, Cyprus and elsewhere. Despite this demonstration of the continuing importance of UN peacekeeping, political differences continue to inhibit the Organization from making full use of previous peacekeeping experience. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations continues its search for agreed guidelines on the establishment, command, control and financing of peacekeeping missions. The practical aspects of peacekeeping remain under discussion. However, during this past year, there has been little examination of or progress on these matters in that Committee. While this situation persists, UN forces are still being set up on an ad hoc basis and this obviously is unsatisfactory.

The events of the last year have tended to confirm the lessons which Canada has drawn from its participation in peacekeeping. First, both the peacekeeping and "peacemaking" process must be tackled concurrently if a negotiated solution to a dispute is ever to be found. Provision should be made wherever possible, when the Security Council is establishing a new force, that its mandate be of a limited duration and that means to settle the dispute be envisaged. In Cyprus, the simple presence of UNFICYP has not sufficed to solve the problems of that island. What is needed is the resumption of negotiations on a continuous basis between the two communities under UN auspices. In the Middle East, by contrast, the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel appear to have successfully advanced the "peacemaking" process and this process has unquestionably been facilitated by the presence of UNEF in the Sinai peninsula. A crucial prerequisite for the success of a peacekeeping mission is that the parties concerned accept the presence of the force and agree to maintain a ceasefire. The importance of this has been underlined in southern Lebanon since UNIFIL was created. Despite the force's accomplishments to date, we cannot overlook the problems it has encountered in fulfilling all the terms of its mandate. If UNIFIL is to achieve complete success, it must have the full co-operation and backing of all those in the region.

The respective roles of the Security Council and the Secretary-General in the command, control and supervision of peacekeeping operations remain in dispute in the Committee of 33. While there can be no doubt of the primacy of the Security Council in the establishment of peacekeeping operations, we continue to believe that the Secretary-General must have clear authority to direct the day-to-day operations of any peacekeeping force. Otherwise the Organization will not be able to respond adequately and expeditiously to the urgent and unforeseen problems that inevitably occur in the course of an operation. The Secretary-General should also nominate the force commander, as he is in the best position to select a qualified commander acceptable to the parties concerned and to the Security Council.

The number of countries participating in UN peacekeeping operations has remained comparatively limited. Only nineteen states have joined in two or more of the major peacekeeping operations. We are pleased to note that this year there has been a new addition to the "peacekeepers' club" with the decision of the Government of Fiji to contribute troops to UNIFIL. We would encourage other members to give serious consideration in future to participating in peacekeeping operations.

The financing of UN peacekeeping operations remains an area of serious concern to my government. A number of forces are accumulating deficits which, if left unchecked, may lead to serious budgetary problems for the United Nations. The cost of peacekeeping operations should be borne by members in accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 of the Charter. The special scales of assessment as applied to UNEF II, UNDOF and UNIFIL appear broadly acceptable to the membership of the Organization. We would urge all those who have been withholding part or all of their assessments to pay them promptly. A selective approach to financial support for assessed UN activities can only provide an unfortunate precedent which other member states may then apply elsewhere in the UN system.

Canada is equally concerned with the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations. As a long-standing participant in UN peacekeeping operations, we consider that much can be done to improve the capacity of the United Nations and its member states to prepare to send forces into the field. These measures need not wait for the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to agree on guidelines for peacekeeping missions. We are pleased to note that a number of those practical measures are mentioned in the draft resolution which is now before this Committee. The Canadian Delegation has been pleased to join the ranks of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution which has been prepared on the initiative of the members of the European Community. We realize that it is a compromise draft, but we believe that it nonetheless has much to offer. This draft resolution also makes positive references to peacekeeping training which my Delegation supports wholeheartedly. This is the first time that such an element has appeared in a draft resolution of the General Assembly and Canada welcomes this development. We believe that training for peacekeeping would have a beneficial effect on the implementation of any United Nations peacekeeping operation and increase the effectiveness of such a force in the field. The types of training we have in mind would include the following: the "topping up" of national military training programs with special courses on UN peacekeeping operations and observer missions; the sharing of experiences gained in peacekeeping roles, leading eventually to the evolution of internationally-agreed standards and a common training manual for United Nations peacekeeping assignments; prior training for officers designated to senior command or staff positions, under United Nations auspices and/or coordination; and the convening of regional or international seminars on peacekeeping.

Canada remains concerned to see that peacekeeping continues to play its role in the maintenance of international peace and security. We fully intend to maintain our active participation in the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in the coming year and we consider that the adoption of this draft resolution by the General Assembly will encourage the Committee to pursue its efforts with renewed vigour and

dedication. We believe that both practical measures and guidelines will have to be dealt with on an equal-priority basis by the Special Committee and its working group. Both are of importance to the efficient and effective functioning of United Nations peacekeeping forces. At a time when peacekeeping is so much in the public eye, this Organization must make an especial effort to resolve many of those problems which, in the past, have complicated the implementation of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

3. CYPRUS

Ambassador William H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada at the United Nations, outlined the Canadian position on the question of Cyprus. In his statement to the Plenary of the General Assembly on November 9, 1977, he touched on the steady interest of the Secretary-General in the problems of Cyprus and the important participation of Canada in the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Referring to the visit by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey as well as recent discussions in Ottawa between Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Okcum, Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ambassador Barton stressed the desire that renewed intercommunal talks would soon occur through the good offices of the Secretary-General. Parts of the Canadian statement follow:

The Canadian Delegation, while sometimes disheartened by the seeming intractability of the problems in Cyprus, has been encouraged by at least one consideration. This is that both sides seem to be agreed that the United Nations can usefully be involved in the process of finding an accommodation. In this connection, we have noted that the Secretary-General continues to take a close personal interest in the problems of Cyprus. Canada's interest in the Cyprus question stems partly from general concern with the maintenance of peace and security in the eastern Mediterranean. It stems also from concern for the plight of a fellow member of the Commonwealth. The principal focus of Canada's involvement remains, however, the presence on the island, for the fifteenth consecutive year, of a Canadian contingent as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. A total of over 20,000 Canadian soldiers have now served in Cyprus and many have served several tours of duty there.

In the Security Council debate last June on the renewal of the mandate for UNFICYP, the Canadian representative made reference to two aspects of the Cyprus question on which some movement might be possible. The first was the possibility that the Nicosia International Airport might be reopened for normal traffic. The second was the possibility that Varosha might once again be resettled. We have been pleased to note that references to such a possible resettlement have been included in speeches at this General Assembly by representatives of both Cypriot communities.

Mr. President, in their contributions to this debate, representatives of both communities have referred to the underlying problems of their troubled land. Foreign Minister Rolandis has rightly evoked the Turkish military intervention of 1974 and the suffering which has been caused thereby. In this connection, the question of "disappeared persons" is a matter of great concern to the Canadian Delegation and, indeed, to the Canadian people. In turn, Mr. Denktash has referred - equally

pertinently - to the desperate situation prevailing to Cyprus prior to 1974 and the Turkish intervention. These two differing but complementary viewpoints illustrate once again the necessity of recommencing, in the words of Mr. Rolandis, the intercommunal negotiations on a meaningful basis. A basis has, of course, already been laid out in the joint communiqué issued by the late Archbishop Makarios and Mr. Denktash in February 1977 and the four points contained therein. In this context, we have noted with satisfaction that Messrs. Denktash and Michaelides were in agreement that those 1977 guidelines remained valid as a framework for any resumed intercommunal negotiations. We also recognize that for those negotiations to be meaningful there will have to be, at least implicitly, mutual recognition of the realities. These include the need for the Turkish-Cypriot community to be flexible on the issue of territory. They include also the necessity for the Greek-Cypriots to satisfy some essential requirements of the Turkish-Cypriot community with respect to constitutional arrangements. We were heartened to hear that representatives of both communities had reaffirmed their dedication to the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as applicable to the Republic of Cyprus.

Canadian spokesmen at the United Nations have been reiterating on every possible occasion that the process of peacekeeping, in which Canada is engaged in Cyprus, should be accompanied by peacemaking. Canada, as a contributor to UNFICYP, would like to be assured that this is indeed the case. We need to be reassured by the actions of the parties concerned that the search for a mutually tolerable accommodation is in fact being pursued earnestly and with determination. We think it reasonable to expect that the parties will bend their efforts to find an accommodation that enables the UN peacekeeping force to leave Cyprus rather than keep the peacekeeping force as guardian of the status quo. We have made our views known on the lack of financial support for this operation and I do not propose to repeat them. I would say now that the Canadian Government cannot contemplate an indefinite peacekeeping presence in Cyprus. We are finding it increasingly difficult, before our public opinion, to justify Canadian participation in peacekeeping operations when they show little sign of contributing to the process of peacemaking.

The Canadian Government has been actively considering various aspects of the Cyprus problem in the past year. For instance, in the last twelve months, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jamieson, has visited Greece, Cyprus and Turkey and had useful discussions with the political leaders in those countries. Additionally, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Okcun, has just been in Ottawa. Through these various encounters we are convinced that a useful dialogue can and must be maintained both here in the United Nations and elsewhere. We hope and pray that the intercommunal negotiations, through the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General, will recommence shortly. To encourage this development, the Canadian Delegation believes that it is incumbent upon the General Assembly to adopt resolutions which all delegations can support and implement and to eschew language which would merely exacerbate the political tensions which unfortunately still exist on the island of Cyprus.

4. MIDDLE EAST

In a statement on October 30, 1978 in the Special Political Committee, Mr. Maurice Dupras, M.P., Representative of Canada, disclosed Canada's policy with respect to the Middle East and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees to the Near East (UNRWA). Mr. Dupras spoke about the future of the Palestinian people, the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East" adopted at Camp David and Israeli policy on providing shelter for Palestinian refugees. He also urged the member states of the United Nations to support the humanitarian work of the UNRWA. The following paragraphs are extracts from Mr. Dupras' statement.

The central element of the Middle Eastern problem is the future of the Palestinian people. My government considers that their legitimate concerns must be taken into account in any peace settlement and that they have the right to participate in any negotiations to determine their future. The Canadian Government further believes that there should be an appropriate territorial foundation for the political self expression of the Palestinians and that this should be implemented as part of an overall settlement. We consider that all other elements for a just and equitable peace in the Middle East, beyond those which I have just given, are contained in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

We think that the "framework for peace in the Middle East" agreed at Camp David contains a good basis from which a just and equitable solution could be achieved. This framework was never intended to solve all outstanding questions, instead it provides the means for the parties concerned to reach agreement through further negotiations. With goodwill we expect that difficult problems can be surmounted and that peace for which we have longed can be achieved. We hope that our confidence is well placed and that a solution which does meet the concerns of the Palestinian people will be reached.

One of the resolutions with which we will be dealing will, we expect, be similar to resolution 32/90/C "Palestine Refugees in the Gaza Strip". Delegations will recall that my delegation changed its vote last year on that resolution. We had previously voted in favour but last year we detected a slight change in the Israeli position. In order to encourage what we hoped would be a change in their policy on providing shelter for the families whose homes were destroyed by demolition in July and August 1971, we changed our vote. Nations will recall that, in 1971, the Israeli occupying authorities demolished the shelters of 2554 families to provide access roads within the camps giving rise to the motion which calls, inter alia, for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed and for the provision of adequate shelters for their accomodation. Last year Israel was reported to have provided housing free of charge for the first time to some of the families on the hardship list. This year we see from the report of the Secretary-General in document A/33/285 that the offer of free housing was extended to additional families on the list. We hope Israel will continue to extend this policy. We will therefore continue to abstain on resolutions similar to 32/90/C so long as there is specific evidence of progress.

That having been said, UNRWA itself is apolitical, an organization which gives substance to the humanitarian concerns of the world community for

the plight of the Palestinian people. It would like, therefore, to leave behind the political aspects of the problem and to concentrate on its humanitarian side.

There are almost 1,800,000 registered refugees for whom UNRWA provides services though, as the Commissioner General points out in his report, the eligibility to receive services varies and less than 17.5% of those registered are authorized to receive all services. Those services which are provided - education, relief and health - are, in the words used by the Commissioner-General, quote one of the clearest practical examples of what international cooperation can achieve in pursuit of the United Nations' goal of improving the human condition unquote. I urge those who contribute generously to UNRWA to continue to do so, those who can contribute more to be generous and those who do not contribute at all to be compassionate and contribute. But most of all, I urge those who can do something to solve the underlying problem to spare no efforts in the search for a solution.

5. RHODESIA

Mr. P.A. Lapointe, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative, stated Canada's position on the question of Rhodesia in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on November 6, 1978. He discussed the worsening situation in Rhodesia, the effective enforcement of sanctions and the Anglo-American proposals to bring about an internationally acceptable peace in Zimbabwe. Here are some of Mr. Lapointe's comments on the subject:

The climate in which we again consider the question of Southern Rhodesia is not good. In a number of respects, the situation has worsened during the past year. We have listened with interest to the statement of the delegate of the United Kingdom and welcome the continuing efforts of his government along with that of the United States to bring about a solution to this continuing tragedy. In doing so, however, we do not minimize the very real difficulties that lie ahead in the immediate future.

Canada still considers that effective enforcement of sanctions against Rhodesia is a key element in bringing the full weight of international pressure to bear on the illegal regime. We are, therefore, deeply concerned at recent information which suggests that sanctions are not being implied with the vigilance and sense of purpose which was intended when comprehensive measures were first introduced. We are gratified that the United States of America, in March last year, saw fit to enact legislation nullifying the so-called Byrd Amendment and, thereby, closing one of the most important loopholes which, since 1971, had prevented the implementation of a fully effective sanctions program. We are concerned, however, by the type of sanctions evasion suggested in the recently-published Bingham Report on the Supply of Petroleum and Petroleum Products to Rhodesia. The Government of the United Kingdom is studying the Bingham Report with a view to determining what legal action may be appropriate, and it may be that their findings will shed more light on the scope of the breach. Of course, as long as South Africa refuses to cooperate in the enforcement of sanctions against the illegal regime, economic measures cannot have their desired effect. Canadian authorities would be prepared to give careful examination to suggestions for the tightening of the implementation of oil sanctions in order to ensure that their purpose can be achieved.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has been steadfast in its support for the Anglo-American initiative to bring peace to Zimbabwe through an internationally supervised transition to majority rule which would allow the participation of all Zimbabweans in the process. While our support continues unabated, we are somewhat disheartened by what appears to be double-talk on the part of the internal leaders and by the ambiguity with which they approach the prospect of an all-party meeting at which genuine negotiations would be opened with a view to early implementation of the Anglo-American plan. We, like most others in this committee, are frustrated by the incessant delays in the beginning of realistic negotiations and are angered by the viciousness with which military solutions are pursued while the pretence of openness to peaceful approaches is maintained.

The international resolve to see the violence, aggression, torture and killing stopped must be maintained and strengthened; the Patriotic Front must be encouraged to cooperate within the framework of the Anglo-American formula and the internal leaders must be made to understand that continued violence borne of desperation can only seal their fate. Smith and his colleagues must be made to see that only through the negotiations envisioned in the Anglo-American plan can there be any hope for his people, even in the short term.

6. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Mr. William H. Barton, Ambassador and Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, delivered a statement to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on November 21, 1978 about the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA). As Chairman of its Advisory Committee, he discussed UNETPSA since its beginning in 1968. Despite some encouraging results recently, UNETPSA continues to suffer from difficult financial problems. Mr. Barton also discussed two proposals of the Advisory Committee to strengthen UNETPSA's activities. This is what Mr. Barton actually said about the Programme:

Since the Programme began in 1968 it has made available individual awards for young people living under colonial or minority régimes in southern Africa. The participants in the Programme have included students from Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa as well as from the newly independent countries of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau. Since the Programme began, 21 states have made available scholarships for students from southern Africa for training in their own countries. Fifty-six per cent of the recipients of UNETPSA awards are attending courses in African universities. The remainder are attending institutions in Asia, Europe and North America, due to the limitations on the intake of foreign students in many African institutions and also because of the need for training in fields not available in African universities.

But I would be quite incomplete, Mr. Chairman, if I did not outline the financial problems that the Programme continues to face as a result of the continuing flow of young people from southern Africa who are seeking political asylum and educational opportunity in neighbouring states. As a result of the political situation in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, the Programme has received 3,082 applications from qualified candidates in 1977-78. This represents a 53% increase in

applications over the previous year. In addition, the average cost of a scholarship award in some countries has almost doubled and this has placed heavy financial burdens on the Programme which was obliged, at times, to provide partial awards instead of full awards in order to accommodate as many candidates as possible. While I do not mean to imply here, Mr. Chairman, that the programs should expand indefinitely, I do suggest that increased efforts on the part of all concerned governments must be made if the Programme is to carry out successfully its mission of permitting young people from southern Africa to enjoy training and educational opportunities which would otherwise be denied them.

Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa at its 26th meeting held on October 30, 1978 decided that, in view of the outflow of numerous young student refugees from southern Africa into neighbouring states and the increase in the size and scope of the Programme, it would be desirable to strengthen the Programme by the addition to the Advisory Committee of a limited number of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly. In this regard, it would seem appropriate to add new members from the major donor countries as well as from countries which host students under this Programme.

The Advisory Committee has also decided that given the changes in the situation throughout southern Africa since 1975 when the first field evaluation of the Programme was conducted, the General Assembly should appoint a team of four or five people to undertake a second field evaluation of the Programme in consultation with the Secretary-General in order to find ways and means to improve and expand the Programme and to provide better educational opportunities to meet the increasing demands on the resources of the Programme. The team might be expected to visit the headquarters of specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations in Europe as well as certain donor countries and a number of host countries in Africa.

7. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Mr. Maurice Dupras, M.P., Representative of Canada, gave the Canadian statement in the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly on October 17, 1978 concerning peaceful uses of outer space. First he described Canada's space program and touched on Canadian participation in international collaboration for peaceful use and application of satellites. Next, Mr. Dupras discussed the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, raised the question of the nuclear-powered satellite COSMOS 954, which had crashed on Canadian territory, and mentioned the lack of progress on the issue of direct broadcasting by satellite. Lastly, he stated that Canada would cosponsor a resolution introduced by Austria on peaceful uses of outer space. Here are Mr. Dupras' remarks on behalf of Canada.

Our primary interest has been in the development of communications by satellite. There are now three Canadian ANIK satellites providing communications services to remote Canadian communities. An ANIK B satellite, the first of a new generation, is due to be launched next month. The joint Canadian-American Communications Technology Satellite, known as Hermes, has proved successful: numerous experiments have been

conducted and a third year of operation is now being planned. Another main area of activity has been remote sensing of the earth's resources. The Landsat program has been of great value to Canada and to many countries of the world. We have recently concluded an agreement with the United States on cooperative experiments to be carried out in Canada using the Proof-of-Concept Radar Satellite, SEASAT. The satellite receiving station at Shoe Cove, Newfoundland, has been modified to acquire sensor data over the northwest Atlantic and eastern Canada.

On the international level, Canada is actively involved in expanding cooperation in the peaceful use and application of satellites. We are seeking to upgrade and augment our status vis-à-vis the European Space Agency; we are discussing means of international cooperation in search and rescue; we are participating in projects of international development assistance. It is our firm belief that the further development of space technology will best be achieved through international cooperation.

I would like now to refer to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is before this Committee. From our point of view, the 21st session of the Committee was most productive. As members are aware, Canada raised the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in the United Nations at the February meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which took place shortly after the nuclear-powered satellite COSMOS 954 fell on Canadian territory, scattering debris, some of which was radioactive, over a wide area of the Canadian north. Our purpose in raising the issue at that time, and later in the Legal Sub-Committee, was to draw attention to the international implications of the incident as a matter of concern to all countries, and to propose measures for the development of an international regime of safety standards to govern the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. To this end, we have made a number of proposals.

We are pleased to note that many of these proposals gained widespread support in the Outer Space Committee and that at its 21st session Committee members agreed to establish a working group of experts under the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to consider "technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space". In view of the consensus obtained in the Outer Space Committee, we hope that this body will approve this decision so that the Working Group of Experts could meet next February, during the 16th session of the S&T Sub-Committee. The report of the Outer Space Committee also contains a request that launching states notify states concerned in the event that a space object with nuclear power sources on board is malfunctioning with a risk of re-entry. We consider that these consensus recommendations of the Outer Space Committee represent a recognition by the UN of an important international issue and that they provide for a program of constructive action which will benefit all countries. We strongly support these recommendations and hope that all member states will join in this cooperative effort to minimize the risk of harm to mankind and the environment from the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

There is one area in particular, where we regret the lack of progress that has been made. This concerns the stalemate which has developed on the issue of direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS). For a number of

years the Canadian Delegation, in cooperation with other delegations, has been active in the development of principles to govern DBS. However, no further progress on the completion of these principles was possible at the 1978 sessions of either the Legal Sub-Committee or the parent committee. We would hope that this would not continue to be the case next year.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I should like to state that my delegation will be very pleased to co-sponsor the omnibus resolution on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which is to be introduced in this Committee by my distinguished colleague from the Delegation of Austria. With the clear guidance provided by this resolution, progress will be made during the next year and in this collective effort I pledge Canada's full support and cooperation.

C. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Canadian Delegate to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee of the General Assembly, Mr. Roger Rousseau, currently Canadian Ambassador to Venezuela, spoke on October 27, 1978 about Canada's perception of international economic cooperation and the ongoing North/South dialogue. He stressed the need to accelerate the growth of developing countries by taking action in such areas as trade, aid, transfer of technology, energy and the elaboration of a new international development strategy. Portions of the Canadian Delegate's statement follow.

According to the last report on world development which has just been published by the World Bank, there are still numerous problems which will require unprecedented co-operation if we wish to bring about changes of benefit to the poorest populations.

Many speakers have stressed the lack of progress in resolving the problems of the developing countries. In the ongoing process of political development, we must not miss the opportunities given us to make real progress in a spirit of co-operation. Improvement of the international economic climate will promote these opportunities. A more solid economic foundation will encourage us further to carry out the structural changes necessary to promoting a more rational distribution of economic activities among the nations. The industrialized countries, which are devoting a great deal of energy to improving their economic performance, see a few encouraging signs. It is true that changes are necessary in the international economic system, and that progress must be made in this area, but it is equally true that change which at times may be difficult is necessary in the domestic economic policies of both the industrialized and the developing countries. We must continue our efforts at increasing international trade, putting particular emphasis on the needs of the developing world. As numerous delegates have reminded us, it is important that the industrialized countries adopt national transitional aid measures that will become ever more useful as international trade develops. In another connection, it should be noted that the industrialized countries are rapidly increasing their exports to the Third World, notably in the sector of manufactured products.

Not all the developing countries are benefiting by wider access to the markets. Some of them have problems of a different nature which cannot be solved by strategies based primarily on exports but rather must be helped through aid grants. We are still aiming at the 0.7 per cent objective. Once again we urge those countries in a surplus position to redouble their efforts and we are pleased that certain measures have recently been taken in this direction. With regard to liberalization of development assistance, Canada has converted the amounts owing to it by the least developed countries into subsidies, and it is this form of assistance that they will receive from now on. We are happy that other donor countries have done the same. We join them in urging those industrialized countries which have not yet done so to retroactively adjust the terms and conditions of their assistance to the developing countries.

Food and agricultural development

For many developing countries, dynamic expansion of productivity in the agricultural sector is a priority. Stagnation of agricultural production has seriously hindered the economic and social development of these countries. As a large producer and exporter of foodstuffs, Canada has been in the vanguard of efforts aimed at improving the world food situation. These efforts will be given a new impetus at the fifth session of the World Food Council which Canada will have the honour of hosting next year.

Development of energy resources

The essential role energy has played in the last few years in all national economies has directed attention to the advantages the developing countries could derive from a more rapid development of their own energy resources. More rational use of these resources would have the effect of reducing imports and would immediately make it possible for numerous developing countries to save on currency. It becomes clearer each day that closer international co-operation is necessary in order to facilitate research, exploration and exploitation of conventional and unconventional energy resources. At a recent meeting of the Joint Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund and of the World Bank, Canada took some initiatives in order to bring further progress in this important area. Canada is also in favour of the holding of a United Nations conference on new and renewable energy sources. Emphasis should be placed on energy techniques susceptible of practical and rapid application in the developing countries.

New international development strategy

Formulation of a new international development strategy is of prime importance in that it defines the framework within which the international community makes its co-operation efforts. The goal is to set down acceptable objectives in connection with finding solutions to development problems. Canada recommends a different approach from that adopted in the previous decades. We must ask ourselves what policy and strategy changes could have the best results worldwide. There may be advantages in adopting a more long-term perspective that could be modified according to the economic situation as well as to technical and social innovations.

There is need to concentrate on development of sectors such as agriculture, raw materials, energy resources and essential services. The strategy should take into consideration the environment and the capacity for continual expansion of resource transfers, as well as the limits and constraints that must be put on such transfers. Further, we must make sure that the strategy is written in such a way as to obtain the support of public opinion. Such support in all countries is necessary so that governments can allocate the resources and bring about the policy changes required for carrying out the strategy.

2. UN ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Ambassador Roger Rousseau spoke to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee of the General Assembly on November 14, 1978. As a major

donor to UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and other UN bodies that provide technical assistance to developing countries, Canada is concerned that these programs function as effectively as possible. In addition, Mr. Rousseau spoke about the work of the World Food Council which will hold its next meeting in Ottawa in September 1979. Here are extracts from Ambassador Rousseau's statement.

Canada is continuing to give energetic support to the operational activities for development within the United Nations system, because they constitute one of the most direct ways of putting the ideas and principles expressed in this chamber into decisive and realistic action. The annual debate on this item should always constitute a new milestone in our struggle to establish world standards of human dignity.

UNDP

The Twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Governing Council reflected the period of consolidation which has taken place since the financial crises. At the beginning of this speech, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the numerous measures adopted by the Administrator in order to reinforce the Program. My government considers the issue of program quality and efficient use of resources to be fundamental; that is why we hope that a serious and sweeping document will be produced on this subject, so that the Council and the member governments can: (a) satisfactorily carry out their responsibilities relating to resources and UNDP development objectives; (b) reinforce the key role played by the UNDP as a co-ordinator of technical assistance, both within the United Nations development system and through contacts with other multilateral and bilateral aid organizations; (c) benefit from the experience of the UNDP in development assistance and improve their own development programs, whether as donor or recipient countries.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a special place in Canadian hearts. Besides carrying out efficiently development aid projects of direct benefit to children, UNICEF has, both within the United Nations system and throughout the world, been a promoter of the necessity of putting children first in our development efforts. In another connection, the contribution made by this organization to the preparation and follow-up of the International Conference on Primary Health Care held in the Soviet Union in September, is first-hand evidence of this leadership role. The conference was an opportunity for the international community to better grasp the concept of primary health care and to become more aware of the necessity of supporting national programs in this field on a world scale. We also wish to express our gratitude to UNICEF for the support given to non-governmental organizations, and more especially to the Canadian Public Health Association as well as to the World Federation of Public Health Associations. The work of UNICEF as a "guiding spirit" of the International Year of the Child is further evidence of the dynamic role it assumes in helping children. Certainly the International Year of the Child will have significant consequences for all countries, but it should also serve to focus the attention of the international community on the ways of significantly improving the basic services offered to children.

World Food Program

Canada is an ardent defender of the World Food Program (WFP). We consider it one of the most outstanding successes within the United Nations system. We believe that many countries share our confidence in the program, and the significant increase in contributions which has come with the WFP's development over the years supports this conviction. It is noteworthy that the program has always, whether in periods of abundance or in periods of want, been able to handle commodities in a constructive manner to benefit the poorer people in the developing countries. We know that, while providing this assistance to the most deprived, the program has been also encouraged direct participation by the recipients in the efforts aimed at improving their own situation. The incentives provided by the WFP to that end are valuable, and the motivation generated by its activities in the areas of food for work and of food for the vulnerable groups, merits special recognition. We are also happy that the WFP has worked to develop and implement evaluation techniques, and that it co-operates in constructive fashion with other United Nations institutions.

Food Problems: Report of the World Food Council

I will now discuss the World Food Council report on the deliberations of its fourth session. My government attaches very special importance to the work carried out by the Council in its capacity as a higher committee for review of food policies. For this reason Canada will be very happy to host the next session of the Council in 1979.

Food Production

We are doing our part to help increase food production in the poorest countries, by increasing the proportion of our bilateral aid programs devoted to agriculture, and by pledging \$33 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development during its first three years of existence. We are aware of the importance of increasing food production in the less developed countries, and we have accordingly given high priority to agricultural and rural development in our development assistance program, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Nevertheless, Canada still has reservations regarding the suitability and usefulness of setting external aid targets, such as the 8.3 billion dollars. In another connection, Canada considers that the first responsibility for increasing food production falls to each of the countries affected. They must be prepared to give the necessary priority to agriculture in their development plans and in their requests for assistance.

Food security

Canada supports the objective of world food security and the related principle of maintaining cereal reserves. We believe that reserve stock arrangements should be concluded within the framework of a new international wheat agreement; in this way food security needs and market stability could be brought into harmony to a large extent. We consider that if the benefits are shared by all, so should the costs be shared. At present, it is the exporters who must bear the costs of building reserve stocks; in all fairness, importers, especially those in the developing countries, should assume some of these costs. It is

impossible to ensure food security without maintaining high production levels continuously. Farmers are sensitive to trade stimuli and, if increased production and improved food security are desired, it is essential that the producers receive adequate returns.

Food aid and international emergency food reserves

Canada supports the annual minimum figure of 10 million tons of cereals as an objective for a food aid agreement which would be incorporated into a new international wheat agreement, on the understanding that new donors should be encouraged to contribute to the pursuit of this objective and traditional donors should be prepared to increase their commitments. We have also accepted the recommendations of the World Food Council with regard to the establishment of a permanent International Emergency Reserve. Canada has already provided substantial assistance to the reserve, of which the 500,000 ton objective has almost been reached at this time.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 11, 1978, Professor John P. Humphrey, O.C., Special Adviser to the Canadian Delegation, delivered a statement in Plenary of the General Assembly. He spoke about the adoption and evolution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, having been Director of the Division of Human Rights in the UN Secretariat when the Declaration was adopted. Professor Humphrey also discussed the Declaration's impact on international law as well as the revolutionary aspect of the Declaration at its adoption and today. Finally he stressed the importance of the Declaration as an instrument to judge the conduct of states towards their citizens and to interpret human rights provisions of the UN Charter. Portions of Professor Humphrey's statement follow:

Thank you for giving me the floor. And may I also thank the Canadian Government for inviting me to be part of its delegation long enough for me to make this speech. I owe this privilege to the fact that I was a member of the Division of Human Rights in the Secretariat of this Organization when the Universal Declaration was adopted and to the further fact that I have survived these thirty years which is something for which I thank the genes I inherited from my ancestors. I may well be the only person in this hall who was also present in the Palais de Chaillot when this Assembly adopted the Declaration in the night of 10 December 1948.

The Universal Declaration has been an important, perhaps the most important factor, in the revolution in the nature of international law that has taken place since the Second World War. Whatever jus inter gentes may have been at the outbreak of the Second World War it is certainly no longer a legal order governing only the relations of states - witness the fact that this Organization, which is not a state, is now recognized as a person in international law. The changes in the scope and character of international law in the last three or four decades have been so fundamental that the name, international law, is no longer an appropriate description of a discipline which should now be called world law. There has never been a more profound revolution in the history of ideas than this revolution in the nature of traditional international law. The Declaration is also, whatever the intentions of its authors may have been, a revolutionary document in the sense that it provides succour and encouragement wherever and whenever individual men and women are fighting for their freedoms in the face of oppression. There is revolutionary dynamite in the Declaration; and there has probably been no social or political conflict anywhere since it was adopted in which it has not been invoked or played some role. It is in the Universal Declaration that for the first time the existence of certain economic and social rights are recognized and proclaimed, rights which because they are just as important, the Declaration puts on the same footing as the traditional civil and political rights, something which, in the context of 1948, was revolutionary indeed. That alone is enough to ensure for it a place in history.

Thirty years after its adoption, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights possesses a moral and political authority which is unequalled by

any other international instrument with the possible exception of the Charter itself. The adoption of the Declaration, as were the inclusion of the Human Rights provisions in the Charter and the subsequent drafting and coming into force of the covenants, was a reaction of the world community to unspeakable violations of the most fundamental rights during and immediately before the Second World War. That was the catalyst that prepared world public opinion and made it possible for the United Nations to undertake its revolutionary Human Rights Programme. There is now in most parts of the world an awareness in these matters for which there is no precedent even though human rights may not always be respected. Let me mention only the three most obvious examples: current attitudes towards racial discrimination and discrimination against women and the general acceptance of the proposition that economic and social rights are as important as the traditional civil and political rights. There is now general acceptance everywhere of this new morality which has also become an international morality. Human rights have even become a factor in the foreign policy of certain states. These changes in attitudes didn't just happen and they are probably the result of more than one social cause; but one of them was undoubtedly the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and this Assembly can claim some credit for what has happened. The educational and moral impact of the Declaration has been immense, and in the final analysis that may be more important than anything else that has happened as a result of the decision taken by the Assembly on 10 December 1948.

The Declaration was meant to become and has become all these things. It may have become something more. The General Assembly and other bodies began to use the Declaration as a standard for judging the conduct of states in their relations with individual men and women and groups of individuals. In resolution after resolution the Assembly either asserted that the Declaration must be strictly observed or invoked the Declaration when condemning a state for violating its obligations under the human rights provisions of the Charter. The Declaration is now being used and has been used for many years to interpret the human rights provisions of the Charter - so much so indeed that it is now possible to suggest that, whatever the intentions of its authors may have been in 1948, the Universal Declaration or in any event the justiciable parts of it, have now become part of the customary law of nations and are therefore binding on all states. If that is so, the achievement we are celebrating today was a much greater one and, I suggest, a more revolutionary achievement than anyone could have imagined on the night of 10 December 1948. But whether that is so or not - and it seems to me that there is a kind of logical necessity about the proposition that it is so - the Universal Declaration remains an instrument of the greatest moral and political authority which unequivocally states the necessary conditions of human dignity and of human aspirations and which is both a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and a hope for the future.

2. CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION

Ambassador Roger Rousseau outlined Canada's human rights position on December 7, 1978 in the Third Committee of the General Assembly. Mr. Rousseau dealt with the prerogative of states to concern themselves with human rights violations elsewhere. He also referred to the human rights situation in Chile and in Democratic Kampuchea and discussed the problem of Indochinese refugees. Ambassador Rousseau pledged Canada's full and

continued support for UN action to promote respect for human rights and called for further measures to improve UN machinery to ensure decency and freedom for all people. The following paragraphs are extracts from the Canadian statement on the subject.

The Canadian position with respect to human rights as an element of international relations is clear and unequivocal. The Charter of the United Nations establishes as one of its key purposes the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights. In adhering to the Charter, therefore, Canada and all other member states have accepted a solemn charge to support these objectives. Accordingly, we continue to reject any contention that human rights are matters solely of domestic jurisdiction beyond the competence of international action. Canada has actively promoted both the standards contained in the major international human rights instruments and the monitoring machinery which promises to make them truly effective. Our support for the principle of respect for human rights acts in two mutually reinforcing directions: while we urge greater respect for human rights internationally, we freely assume obligations legally binding upon ourselves to pursue domestic efforts as diligently as possible.

Over the past three decades, the performance of the United Nations in the area of human rights has not lived up to the expectations of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite the elaboration of numerous instruments, the gap between theoretical standards and concrete achievement is large. This criticism is especially true in the case of gross and persistent violations of human rights. In the view of the Canadian Government, all serious abrogations of human rights--whether they be economic, social and cultural, or civil and political--merit our attention. But special efforts should and must be focussed on those situations in which there have been reliable attested allegations of gross and persistent violations.

While we must conclude that the picture regarding human rights in Chile is mixed, the Government of Chile should be commended for having permitted the entry of the Ad Hoc Working Group and facilitated its work. This action constitutes an important precedent for the human rights efforts of the UN and is another step towards establishing more uniform, non-partisan reporting, investigating and fact-finding procedures. The Canadian Delegation hopes that similar steps of a humanitarian nature can be taken to remedy the human rights situation which exists at present in Democratic Kampuchea. Documentation of violations of human rights has been compiled by a number of states and organizations, including Canada, and has been presented to the Commission on Human Rights. We welcome the announcement that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has invited the Secretary-General to make an official visit, and that the Secretary-General has accepted in principle. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada raised the question of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea in the course of the General Debate in Plenary early in the session, in a right-of-reply statement the Kampuchean Delegation suggested that our motives were politically motivated and partisan. Let me state for the record, should there be any ambiguity, that we have been led to the submission of a report to the Commission on Human Rights and to raising this issue in public fora, by expressions of humanitarian concern,

widely shared by numerous Canadians of all political affiliations, that gross violations have been occurring in Democratic Kampuchea. In voicing our concerns on these violations of human rights, we take no stand on any other aspect of Democratic Kampuchea's internal or external relations, nor do we deny the existence of serious human rights violations in other parts of the world.

In the past few months, the refugee outflow from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos has reached over 10,000 persons per month. These dramatic and tragic movements of human beings, which have international implications of the gravest nature, cannot be divorced from domestic conditions, including human rights and social development considerations, in the countries of exodus. The refugee situation now confronts the international community with a problem of great urgency, magnitude and conscience. If the international community is obliged to respond to these problems, we must surely also have the right to seek solutions to the root causes of these problems. Many countries of the region are being presented with virtually insoluble situations which are not of their own making but are rather the results of the internal actions or policies of some neighbouring countries of exodus. Receiving countries of the area, and other states such as Canada which have responded to the plight of refugees, have a right to urge, and indeed demand, that the fundamental rights of individuals be fully respected in states which are the source of exodus.

Far too many states ignore their Charter obligation to ensure respect for the human rights of all persons within their borders. The human rights standards set out by the Charter and other UN instruments are rigorous; but regardless of the economic and social policies which these governments are free to pursue, they cannot flout human rights standards which they are obligated as UN member states to uphold. Indeed it would seem that the international voices raised against gross and persistent human rights violations are beginning to have some positive effect. Increased publicity has highlighted the problems of dissident groups and individuals in a number of states, thus discouraging private reprisals by governments long accustomed to brutal and swift retaliation against those who speak out according to their consciences. The problem of political prisoners has been recognized as one of legitimate UN concern, and international attention has now been focused on one aspect of this problem, that of trade union political prisoners. We have also been pursuing efforts to eliminate torture, and to promote freedom of religion and belief. In many of these endeavours to publicize violations and to work towards more stringent standards, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) have been in the forefront. We therefore congratulate those NGO's involved, and are pleased that the value of such efforts will be recognized shortly by the award of a United Nations Human Rights Prize to Amnesty International, Union Nationale des Femmes de Tunisie, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Vicaria de la Solidaridad.

The Canadian Delegation is convinced that enhanced UN machinery will go far towards achieving compliance with accepted international standards on human rights. The efforts undertaken by this Organization in recent years bear witness to a renewed sense of solidarity among peoples in the fight to ensure decency and freedom for all. My delegation pledges its full and continuing support for UN action to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental human dignity for all persons.

3. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

The Canadian Delegate, Miss Sylva Gelber, delivered a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on "alternative approaches to the promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms". First, she touched on the right and obligation of all member states to be concerned about human rights violations and fundamental freedoms. The Canadian Delegate then suggested three ways that the United Nations could ensure compliance with international human rights standards. Miss Gelber also spoke about Canada's support for the Human Rights Committee and Canada's interest in several proposals to improve the ability of the United Nations system to intercede on behalf of victims of human rights violations. She next mentioned the importance of the national level for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the need for more states to participate in existing human rights instruments. In conclusion, promising Canada's continued support of all serious efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Canadian Delegate again stressed the obligations of the international community based on the Charter. Miss Gelber made the following remarks on behalf of Canada:

Thirty-three years ago, at the creation of the United Nations Organization, the issue of human rights was deemed to be one of such great concern that it was inscribed no less than seven times in the Charter of the new organization. Convinced that the rights of the person were an essential and legitimate concern of the international community, the delegates who drafted the UN Charter included in Article 1, as one of the fundamental purposes of the Organization, the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

My delegation and my government have over the years noted with concern that some states whose representatives have been heard here this morning continue to insist that international concern for human rights violations constitutes interference in the internal affairs of those states in which these violations take place. Through their adherence to the Charter and its fundamental objectives, however, all members of this Organization have recognized a right and obligation to be concerned about violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, wherever they may occur. Indeed, those states which commit or permit gross violations of human rights within their borders, provoke response from the international community. Other states must react not only because of their Charter obligations, but also because of the frequent need to provide humanitarian relief to refugees and victims of human rights violations fleeing the countries guilty of such violations.

There are essentially three approaches open to the United Nations in its efforts to ensure compliance with international human rights standards. First, it can monitor and draw international attention to human rights violations. Second, the UN can play a mediating role and intercede on behalf of the victims of violations. And third, it can encourage respect for human rights through information and education programs. The current examination of alternative approaches to improving the effectiveness of the United Nations in the human rights field should have as its objective increasing the capacity of the Organization to effectively perform these three functions. My government has made a number of recommendations for action to improve the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission in promoting respect for human rights and

fundamental freedoms. These have been submitted to the Secretary-General for his consideration. The Canadian Government regards the Human Rights Committee, established under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as potentially one of the most effective instruments the United Nations possesses for the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Canadian Government is of the opinion that careful consideration should be given to possible methods of increasing the ability of the United Nations system to intercede on behalf of those persons victimized through violations of human rights. My delegation regards with particular interest proposals for the creation of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who might be directed to perform a good offices function with relation to human rights violations. Another possibility would be to encourage the Secretary-General to use his good offices, either personally or through emissaries, to contact states on a confidential basis when allegations arise of gross or persistent violations of human rights. Alternatively, perhaps there might be designated an Under-Secretary-General or Assistant Under-Secretary-General to perform such emissary functions. A panel of individual experts familiar with a broad range of cultures and legal systems might be made available to advise the Secretary-General or alternate emissary on the advisability, timing, and form of such intercessions.

The Canadian Government recognizes that the promotion and protection of human rights can be most effective at the national level. It is the responsibility of national governments to promote education in human rights for all and access to appropriate human rights materials, so that citizens may better know and act upon their rights. Moreover, the Canadian Government supports efforts by the UN Office of Public Information to produce publications outlining UN instruments and activities in the field of human rights, and my delegation would encourage the widest possible dissemination of these materials. My delegation believes that respect for human rights would be enhanced by more widespread ratification of existing human rights instruments. However, all of us here are aware that acceptance of international standards in theory does not automatically ensure that they are respected in practice. The UN should encourage all states who have not done so to adhere to the optional elements of the two covenants on human rights as well as the Optional Protocol. These instruments provide a means of monitoring the extent to which states respect in practice their obligations to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Nations should also encourage states to create national institutions on human rights. Particularly useful are those which are independent of governments, and which provide citizens with a means to see their grievances redressed.

It is distressing to my delegation to note that today, more than three decades after the United Nations declared the promotion of human rights as one of its primary goals, so little substantive progress has been made. Inherent in these concerns is an implicit criticism of the United Nations, and its seeming inability to come to grips with the problem of gross and persistent violations of human rights. The Government of Canada welcomes the intention of the United Nations to renew its efforts to promote human rights and to review its human rights machinery and activities. My country will continue to support efforts to identify

human rights problems--whether economic, social, cultural, civil, or political--and to prescribe appropriate solutions. The Government of Canada will continue to support all serious efforts to advance the cause of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world, and to insist upon the responsibility of the international community to monitor the global human rights situation according to the obligations of states under the United Nations Charter.

4. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Giving a statement to the Third Committee on November 13, 1978, the Canadian Delegate Sylva Gelber, O.C., congratulated the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for his humanitarian efforts. She also expressed Canada's dismay over the increase in the number of refugees for which the High Commissioner was responsible. Next the Canadian Delegate stressed that many more countries must contribute in financial and resettlement terms to avoid cutbacks in the UNHCR's vital humanitarian activities. Finally she set out Canada's support for the UNHCR as well as Canada's financial contribution to the program for relief operations of Indo-Chinese refugees. Here are some extracts from the Canadian Delegate's statement:

It is with considerable interest that my government has, during the past year, been following the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of individuals who have been displaced, due to war, civil strife, or persecution in their homelands. My delegation would like to commend the High Commissioner for the dedication with which he has pursued his efforts to alleviate the suffering experienced by these uprooted people and to bring about their resettlement. We are dismayed to note the High Commissioner's estimation that the world refugee population now stands at some ten million, the highest level seen since the great displacements of humanity which followed the Second World War. As we survey the current political situation in the world around us, we are aware that the problem is not likely to decrease in magnitude in the immediate future.

My government was pleased to note at the recent Executive Committee meeting of the UNHCR in Geneva that the High Commissioner had managed to raise funds to meet the needs of his programs for 1978. Nevertheless there is still a relatively limited number of governments who bear the financial burden for the High Commissioner's programs and a much smaller number who participate meaningfully in resettlement efforts. The cost and scope of the High Commissioner's programs have quadrupled in the past five years as a result of dramatic upheavals and their resultant refugee problems. If commensurate support is not forthcoming, both from traditional donors and new donors, the result could be the cutting back of vital programs of humanitarian assistance to refugees in many parts of the globe.

Canada has been a consistently active supporter of the efforts of the UNHCR, both as a major financial donor, and as a principal country of settlement. Since the end of the Second World War, the Canadian Government has welcomed over 350,000 refugees for resettlement, and has spent millions of dollars to provide services to these new residents to facilitate their integration into the mainstream of Canadian life. Last year, a new Immigration Act came into effect which underlines Canada's international commitment, undertaken through the humanitarian and refugee conventions to which Canada is a party, to regard the refugee as

an individual demanding special concern. In addition to its ongoing refugee admission policy, designed to select convention refugees on a continuing basis without geographical restrictions, Canada in 1978 undertook a number of special refugee acceptance programs in response to humanitarian needs in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. The Canadian Government sees its refugee resettlement plans as a very significant contribution to the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Nonetheless, Canada has in addition made direct contributions to the UNHCR in 1978 totalling 2.5 million Canadian dollars, including a \$500,000 contribution to the UNHCR's program for relief operations for Indo-Chinese refugees in Thailand. We are looking forward to continuing close cooperation between the Government of Canada and the High Commissioner, and I should again like to repeat our hope that the international community as a whole will increasingly share in efforts to bring relief to the sufferings of those most victimized by political turbulence.

5. RIGHTS OF WOMEN

During her address to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on November 15, 1978, the Canadian Delegate, Sylvia Gelber, O.C., discussed the body of Canadian law designed to guarantee fairer and more just conditions for women. She also described briefly the present situation for Canadian women in the working environment and in higher education. Canada supported the World Plan of Action for women and expressed its willingness to contribute multilaterally and bilaterally toward improving the conditions of society both for women and people in general. The Canadian Delegate made the following comments on the subject:

The stated policy of the Government of Canada, and indeed of the governments of all the jurisdictions in the Canadian confederation, is one of commitment to the principle of full equality for women and men in all spheres of Canadian life. If there is still a wide gap between the policy as stated and the condition as practiced, then it is due in no small part to the persistence in these latter days of the twentieth century, of customs and traditions not yet attuned to a society transformed by science and technology. Our world has changed but our old attitudes too often still linger. Canada of course is not unique in this regard.

The unprecedented influx of women into the labour force, particularly during the last decade, has brought into clear focus the reluctance of contemporary society not only fully to utilize the potential of women but also the reluctance to provide for them a fair and just environment. In an effort to remedy these deficiencies, Canada has placed on the statute books a body of law designed to expedite the achievement of greater equity in society. The law is not in itself the single tool which can immediately bring about changes in communal attitudes. This is particularly relevant with regard to matters pertaining to the changing status of women in contemporary society.

As in other industrial countries, women are generally employed in some five or six occupations generally if not always in the low-paying and unorganized sectors of the workforce. Nevertheless, there has recently been visible in Canada substantial change in the area of higher

education, particularly in fields of professional education. More and more young women are enrolling in such professions as law and medicine. There has also been a noticeable increase in the numbers of young women entering such faculties as business administration, commerce and finance, fields which until recently were sadly lacking insofar as women students were concerned.

The Government of Canada has been in full accord with the World Plan of Action first devised during International Women's Year at the United Nations Conference in Mexico. Consistent with its support of the World Plan of Action, a new Canadian Plan of Action is about to be submitted for Cabinet approval which will be designed to cover the remaining years of the Decade, and the years beyond. The new national Plan will be less concerned with the enactment of new laws, since this program is by now almost complete. It will be more concerned to ensure that the effects of existing law do not discriminate against women, particularly in this time of economic difficulty. In the international field, Canada has always endeavoured to make her contribution. Canada stands ready to support others who are determined to ensure that international economic policies are pursued in such a way as to advance the well-being of total populations, to be sure that economic progress has an equitable impact on both men and women alike. The Canadian Government maintains a keen interest in promoting on a multilateral and bilateral basis, programs which will not only meet the development needs of all peoples in general, but will ensure for women an economic and social position which the international community has come to recognize. The role of women in the economy and in society has been recognized, as witnessed by the United Nations Decade for Women, and it is the hope of the Canadian Delegation that such constructive efforts should be continued. We will have an opportunity to assess the programs anew at the World Conference to be held in 1980.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. UN REGULAR BUDGET

Mr. William H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, delivered a statement in plenary of the General Assembly on January 29, 1979 about the revised estimates of income and expenditure for the biennium 1978/79. He criticized the ability of the General Assembly to control the budget and management of United Nations' programs and expressed the importance Canada places on measures to remedy the financial problems of the Organization. The following is Mr. Barton's statement:

We are about to pass on supplementary budget proposals which will have the effect of increasing our net biennial budget after only one year by almost 39 percent as compared with net expenses for 1976/77. Furthermore, the Secretary-General has indicated that we should expect further demands by the end of 1979. In approving these proposals we are not simply approving some expenditures, we are adopting a testament to the inability of this Assembly to control the budget and management of the programs of the United Nations. This would be a dangerously unhealthy situation in the best of times. But when many member states are experiencing serious economic difficulties at home and have had to apply severe politically difficult restraints to their own programs, it is an intolerable situation.

Both you, Mr. President, and the Secretary-General have repeatedly drawn attention to the need for the Assembly to improve its procedures for the effective conduct of its business, and the Secretary-General informed us just before Christmas that he intends to submit his views to us in time for consideration at the next session. I hope and trust that the question of control over the program and budget will form an important part of the study. I put it to you that we must give urgent attention to this question, including a mechanism for adopting at the outset of each biennium a target figure which must not be exceeded, and a firm decision that every subsequent change in the program must be financed within established budgetary limits, if necessary by deferring lower priority projects. Governments have to do this in the conduct of their own affairs. Failure to do it here is eroding public support for the United Nations and ultimately could jeopardize its very existence.

The Charter imposes on each member government the obligation to pay its share of the costs of the organization as determined by the General Assembly. This is a principle of crucial importance to the integrity of the United Nations, and Canada, for one, would be most reluctant to see any action taken to erode it. But if we persist in demonstrating that we cannot control the budgetary process collectively, then there can be no doubt that some governments will come to the conclusion that they will have to act individually. If that happens the end result will be the emasculation of the Assembly's capacity to manage its own affairs. In this regard, it is surely worthy of note that in the Fifth Committee, member governments whose share of the assessment totals over 50 percent voted against these supplementaries, and if one takes into account those who abstained, the total is over 75 percent. Mr. President, Canada will abstain in the vote on the supplementary estimates.

2. FINANCING UNEF AND UNDOF

In the Fifth Committee Mr. Carl Pedersen, the Canadian Representative, introduced a draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors. The draft resolution was to enable the General Assembly to take the necessary decisions for the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). Urging all member states to support the draft resolution, Mr. Pedersen said United Nations peacekeeping operations could be counted among the most successful activities of the Organization. The stationing of UN contingents in sensitive areas had proved to be a major stabilizing factor, which had prevented the renewal of hostilities and enhanced the prospects for peaceful settlements. The Canadian Delegation believed the peacekeeping operations were the collective responsibility of all 150 member states and it viewed with concern the withholding by several member states of all or part of their assessed contributions. That not only had the effect of placing a heavier financial burden on those countries which provided contingents and jeopardizing the participation of developing countries in such operations, but also threatened the continued existence of those forces. If the United Nations did not manage to find a solution to the problem urgently, the day might come when it would no longer be able to interpose a peacekeeping force, even if the member states wished to do so. Here are some of the Canadian Representative's comments on this subject:

This resolution is tabled in response to the growing difficulties faced by the Secretary-General in meeting the financial obligations of the forces on a current basis, particularly those due to the troop contributors. The consolidated status of the fund for UNEF and UNDOF shows an excess of income over expenditure of approximately 17.7 million dollars for the periods October 25, 1973 to October 24, 1977. Under the provisions of the financial regulations of the UN, this amount has to be credited against member states' assessments. As members will appreciate, however, this surplus is only a book surplus in that UNEF/UNDOF operations incur a deficit in real terms since some member states refuse to pay their assessed contributions. As the Secretary-General has indicated, the financial situation of the forces will soon be reaching a critical stage. Recrediting this amount at this time therefore will worsen the UN's cash flow situation and make it more difficult for the controller to pay the UN's bills for these peacekeeping operations.

It therefore becomes essential both in keeping the forces solvent and in paying those countries which have provided troops, that we avoid exacerbating an already difficult situation. In this connection, we can ameliorate the cash flow situation by suspending the relevant provisions of the financial regulations as concerns the amount in question and enter it under a separately identified UN account. Passage of this measure would not in any way serve as a precedent nor would it prejudice the action to be taken by the Thirty-Fourth General Assembly, including the possible crediting of this amount back to member states. Mr. Chairman, surely therefore to take no action would be irresponsible both in terms of maintaining the viability of the forces and in meeting the very real needs and concerns of those member states who have contributed troops and material. My delegation would hope that this measure, which we believe meets the criteria of fiscal responsibility and the political principles involved, would commend itself to this Committee.

F. LEGAL QUESTIONS

1. CHARTER REVIEW

In a statement on October 19, 1978 the Canadian Representative, Mr. M.D. Copithorne, noted the progress made by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. He pointed out however that this Committee could further improve its work methods. Concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes, Mr. Copithorne stated Canada's preference for proposals advocating the enhancement or greater utilization of existing mechanisms; as opposed to proposals for the establishment of new procedures under a new legal framework, which involve amendments to the Charter or the adoption of new international legal instruments. With respect to the rationalization of procedures, the Canadian Representative urged the Sixth Committee to concentrate on measures to avoid the multiplication of items on the General Assembly's agenda and to improve their allocation. Mr. Copithorne also spoke in favour of the renewal of the Special Committee's mandate and hoped that the Committee could at least complete the lists of proposals for the subjects on the agenda at its next session. The following are portions of Mr. Copithorne's statement:

Canada has carefully reviewed the report of the Committee on its last session and welcomes the improved methods of work and the progress accomplished. The Committee's decision to establish an open-ended working group to concentrate on various topics in a systematic fashion has clearly proved worthwhile. We have noted the progress made towards the elaboration of a list of proposals on the question of peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the proposals made by various delegations on rationalization of procedures and maintenance of international peace and security.

We believe however that the Committee could further improve its work methods. Several delegations have already pointed out that the "compilation" of 51 proposals on peaceful settlement of disputes, by the informal working group, the only tangible result of the Committee's one-month session, does not appear to be much more than a fairly routine listing of national proposals. When it is further specified that it was not the intention of the participants in the working group to make final statements on the substance of the proposals, one might wonder why 9 meetings were required to produce this compilation. It is the hope of my delegation that the Committee will benefit from its experience this year and adopt procedures which will enable it to improve the use of its time.

The Committee at its 1978 session has devoted most of its time to the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes. We have noted that the proposals advanced by states can be divided generally into two categories: those advocating enhancement or greater utilization of existing mechanisms, and those proposing the establishment of new procedures under a new legal framework, either by amendments to the Charter or the adoption of new international legal instruments. Generally speaking, our preference would be that the Committee give priority to the first category of proposals. This approach necessarily involves an examination of the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and

of the reasons which militate against their full utilization. It should be highly instructive to conclude this examination before new initiatives involving the creation of additional legal obligations are undertaken. Secondly, the elaboration of new legal regimes may tend to undermine the effectiveness, or potential effectiveness of existing dispute settlement mechanisms before that effectiveness had been adequately tested. Finally, peaceful settlement of disputes is a concept that is inseparable from the concept of non-use of force being considered in another committee. If a new legal regime on peaceful settlement of disputes were to be elaborated, the Non-Use of Force Committee would seem to us to be a more appropriate forum.

Some interesting suggestions have been made in the Special Committee on the question of rationalization of procedures. We are aware that most of the proposals made, if they were to be accepted, would improve the efficiency of the UN and particularly the General Assembly. It is clear, however, that among those proposals, there are some that demand of member states a degree of self-discipline and preparedness which is not always evident at the present time. For that reason, they are probably impractical at this stage. We hope the Committee will concentrate on those proposals which appear generally acceptable and will go on to produce concrete suggestions in the near future.

We fully endorse the observations made by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly to improve and streamline the workings of the General Assembly. The agenda of the General Assembly is in danger of being overloaded. We hope that it will be possible to devise at an early stage, procedures which would ensure firstly that the number of items before the General Assembly remains manageable and secondly that items normally only come to Plenary for final disposition after a full discussion in the committees. We fully agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that the practice of arbitrarily selecting certain items for discussion in the Plenary meetings is likely to result in duplication, loss of impact and confusion in the Assembly's program of work. In our view, the General Committee has a fundamental role to play in working toward a reduction of the number of items by elimination or combination, in order to reduce overlapping and the lack of balance in workload. We fully support those delegations which have proposed that the General Assembly might properly and profitably invest the General Committee with the power of meeting before the next General Assembly to discuss such questions with more time than is available at present.

Mr. Chairman, I turn now to the maintenance of international peace and security. Like many other delegations, we believe that this is an area of fundamental importance and one on which the Committee could play a very constructive role. My delegation hopes the Committee will discuss the proposals before it in a systematic and positive way and will focus initially, in accordance with its mandate, on those where general agreement is likely to be possible. A more successful course for the Committee would be to focus primarily on the modalities for the more effective pursuit of international peace and security, rather than seeking to discuss and perhaps re-open basic decisions taken at the time the Charter was drafted.

Canada supports the renewal of the mandate of the Special Committee on the UN Charter and Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Committee has now reached a point from which it should be possible to make relatively quick progress to accomplish its mandate. We would expect it to be able to complete its list of proposals on peaceful settlement of disputes at its next session. We also hope the Committee will complete at its next session a comparable listing of proposals for the rationalization of procedures and for the maintenance of international peace and security. This should be facilitated by the fact that general debates have already taken place on two of these three questions and that members of the Committee have already had an opportunity to examine the proposals made on the rationalization of procedures.

2. HOSTAGE TAKING

In a statement to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly on November 16, 1978, the Canadian Representative, Mr. Philippe Kirsch, praised the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages for its progress during the last session and commented briefly on two questions. First, he pointed out that the Canadian Delegation thought the Committee should avoid complicated formulations concerning the relationship between the proposed convention and other areas of international law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two additional protocols adopted in 1977. Different instruments dealing with the taking of hostages should in effect be consistent with and complement each other. Second, he stressed that the Committee was not in an effective position to deal with certain problems relating to state conduct, and should concentrate on the elimination of specific individual terrorist or criminal acts. The following are some of Mr. Kirsch's comments:

At its second session, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, of which Canada is a member, has made considerable progress in the accomplishment of its mandate. One of the most difficult problems the Committee had to deal with, however, was the definition of the relationship of the proposed convention with relevant areas of international law, particularly the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two recently adopted additional protocols. In the view of my delegation, the Committee should avoid complicated formulations which, in that area, are more likely to become a factor of uncertainty than of clarification. Hostage-taking is hostage-taking, regardless of whatever instrument one happens to be reading at the time. We should avoid setting up difficulties between different agreements but rather assume that they should be consistent with and supplementary to one another, particularly when their objectives are of a humanitarian nature. Whatever formulation is ultimately reached, however, the fact that the gap has narrowed between negotiating groups on such questions reflects the determination of the international community to ensure the successful outcome of the Committee's work.

Mr. Chairman, the Ad Hoc Committee has before it several other difficult questions which for the most part are yet to be discussed. The position of principle of many delegations on these subjects has been stated in the course of the past session of the Sixth Committee. It is clear, however, that the Committee is not and cannot be in a position to deal effectively with certain problems of a global nature. This does not amount to a denial of their existence, but is merely recognition that the elimination of specific individual terrorist or criminal acts, on the one hand, and the handling of problems related to state conduct on the other hand, could not logically or practically be dealt with in the same instrument. We hope that efforts made by the international community in addressing problems such as racism and other violations of human rights will yield results, just as we hope that a new convention on hostage-taking will be effective in suppressing that particular type of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, the progress that the Ad Hoc Committee has so far achieved encourages us to believe that the general spirit of cooperation and the genuine desire to achieve results, which have been demonstrated in the past, will continue to prevail. It is of course necessary that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, in the expectation that it can complete its work next year.

3. NON-USE OF FORCE

Regarding the agenda item on the Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations, Canada shares the reservations of other western delegations and particularly NATO countries. It attaches importance to ensuring that the treaty elaborated is in complete conformity with the UN Charter, and to linking the concept of non-use of force to that of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

On November 22, 1978 the Canadian Representative, Mr. Philippe Kirsch, spoke to the Sixth Committee and expressed reservations as to the prospects of success of the Special Committee in light of the absence of agreement even on broad lines of the future work. He stressed that it was essential that the mandate of the Committee remain flexible, because a draft treaty would make sense only if it enjoyed the support of all delegations, and because the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes were concepts which could not be dissociated. The Canadian Representative also underlined the basic flaws of the Soviet draft treaty, i.e., the vague character of its provisions and the unescapable difficulties in trying to make the draft treaty compatible with the Charter. Finally, Mr. Kirsch suggested that a simple solution to the overlapping problem might be to transfer the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes from the Charter Committee to the Non-Use of Force Committee. The following paragraphs constitute part of the Canadian Representative's remarks.

It is certainly possible to bring out several very positive elements from this session of the Special Committee. Generally, the delegations have studied the problems put before them in a serious and constructive manner. Furthermore, many delegations have seen the necessity of making the essential links between non-use of force and other aspects of the

more general question of peacekeeping and international security. If one of the objectives of this session was to define the problems and the positions held here, then it has had a measure of success. But to the extent this objective has been reached, we can only concur with the remark of the Chairman of the Committee that the report reflects the deep divisions which had already been seen at the 31st and 32nd sessions of the General Assembly. We can therefore wonder how the discussion can proceed beyond the general debate stage, given the lack of agreement on the broad outlines of the Special Committee's future work.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation cannot share the opinion of those who would like to reduce the mandate of the Special Committee to the task of formulating a draft treaty on the non-use of force. We also doubt the wisdom of considering the separation of the question of peaceful settlement of disputes and other questions related to the non-use of force. Many very interesting ideas have been submitted to the Committee, dealing in particular with the strengthening of the Security Council's powers, Chapter VII of the Charter, the role of the Secretary-General, the possibility of establishing international inquiry machinery and the importance of the role of the International Court of Justice. If the mandate of the Committee is extended, such ideas will have to be developed further and put into the form of proposals in working documents.

It appears to us that the Soviet Delegation has based its presentation of its draft treaty on two premises. The first is that such a treaty would ensure the future respect of the principle of the non-use of force. The second is that the draft treaty would have no negative impact on the United Nations Charter. I must say that this session of the Special Committee has not convinced us of the validity of these two premises.

With regard to the possible positive impact of the treaty, it seems clear to us that its provisions are really too general to have any appreciable, practical effect. It cannot be said too often that prohibition of the use of force is virtually universally accepted, and that the addition to this principle of a few articles which have no concrete applicative measures will not settle those cases wherein some states feel obliged to resort to force despite the prohibition. My delegation has frequently heard the list of the beneficial effects of a treaty on the non-use of force: from disarmament to economic, social and technical progress. But what is missing from this description, Mr. Chairman, is the relationship of cause and effect. It is not sufficient to say, for example, that one result of the treaty would be the facilitation of settlement of conflicts. We would like to hear how the treaty, without any measures aimed at reducing the causes of tension, could have any greater effect than the general obligations already accepted. We are not denying that rules of law are binding in nature but wondering whether such a concise treaty, which could be contravened in the absence of application measures, might not weaken the force of the rules contained therein. My delegation would like to have clarifications on this matter.

With regard to the relationship of the draft treaty to the Charter, and the danger that the Charter could be affected by it, the problem is somewhat similar to the one that I have just described. When the question was asked, the Soviet delegation replied by a statement of principle: the purpose of the treaty, it said, was to give specific form to the principles defined in the Charter, not to create new obligations; the treaty could therefore have no negative effect on the legal force of the Charter. This is a fine formula, but it does not in any way resolve the dilemma which has been put forth by a number of delegations. If the treaty reaffirms the provisions of the Charter, it is unnecessary and gives the impression that these provisions have eroded or weakened. If the treaty diverges from the Charter (a very real danger in an effort at "concretization" of its provisions), it could create confusion, particularly if the conflict between the two instruments is not immediately evident, that is, if Article 103 of the Charter does not come into play. It is clear that the power of the Security Council to interpret the provisions of the Charter would be affected and that the treaty itself could constitute in practice a disguised amendment. The problem becomes even more serious, of course, in the very probable case that the signatories of the treaty do not include all members of the United Nations. A solemn declaration by the General Assembly, however, would not entail the same dangers and would on the contrary help the Security Council in its task. It would be interesting if the delegation of the Soviet Union would tackle this problem as it has been posed on several occasions in the Special Committee and elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman, having observed the difficulties in which the Special Committee could become entangled, my delegation really wonders whether the differences of opinion are not so deep that they jeopardize its chances for success, particularly in view of the practical impossibility and the inadvisability of imposing ready-made solutions on one or another of the groups in attendance here. We must still consider the hypothesis that the Special Committee could be called upon to continue its deliberations in 1979, and in particular we must consider how the Committee could solve the problem posed by the fact that the question of peaceful settlement of disputes is being dealt with by two separate committees, the Special Committee on the Charter and the Special Committee on the Non-Use of Force. This situation should be corrected. However, we do not see why the peaceful settlement of disputes question should be dealt with only by the Special Committee on the Charter, particularly since that committee will soon be taking up other questions as requested by the majority of its members. A simple solution to the problem of overlapping would probably be to turn over to the Special Committee on the Non-Use of Force the results of consideration of the peaceful settlement of disputes question by the Special Committee on the Charter at its next session, whether these results take the form of recommendations or simply a list of proposals. The Special Committee on the Non-Use of Force would thus have two working papers, one on each of the two main aspects of its mandate, and could proceed to study them at leisure. However, whether or not there is a solution to the overlapping problem, my delegation considers it essential that the Committee continue studying all the proposals submitted to it concerning all aspects of its mandate. In particular, it must not dissociate the question of non-use of force from that of peaceful settlement of disputes, and it must remain faithful to the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

PART II

CANADA'S VOTING RECORD
AT UNGA XXXIII

CANADA'S VOTING RECORD AT 33RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY: The 33rd regular session of the General Assembly adopted 205 resolutions and 70 decisions. There were 133 resolutions or parts of resolutions adopted by recorded vote. Of these recorded votes, Canada voted in favour of 73 (approximately 55% against 19 (14%) and abstained on 41 (31%).

REFERENCE: Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its Thirty-Third Session, Department of Public Information, Press Section, United Nations, New York Press Release GA/5942 5 Feb. 1979

PART I RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MATTERS CONSIDERED DIRECTLY BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A MAIN COMMITTEE

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Voting		
			Yes	No	Abstain
33/1	Admission of Solomon Islands to membership in the United Nations	19/9/78	adopted without vote(A		
33/2	Report of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174	19/10/78	AWV		
33/3	Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency	2/11/78	AWV		
33/4	Peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development	2/11/78	AWV		
33/9	Credentials of representatives to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly	3/11/78	AWV		
33/15	Question of Cyprus	9/11/78	110*	4	22
33/17	Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea	10/11/78	127*	0	1
33/18	Observer status for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation in the General Assembly	10/11/78	AWV		
33/27	Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	1/12/78	AWV		

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution no.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
3/28 A-C	Question of Palestine	7/12/78	A 97 B 103 C 98	19* 14* 17*	25 24 26
3/29	The situation in the Middle East	7/12/78	100	4*	33
3/44	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	13/12/78	129*	0	6
3/45	Dissemination of information on decolonization	13/12/78	135*	0	0
3/46	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights	14/12/78	AWV		
3/107	Admission of the Commonwealth of Dominica to membership in the United Nations	18/12/78	AWV		
3/182 A-C	Question of Namibia	21/12/78	A 120 B 123 C 136	0 0 0	19* 17* 5*
3/183 A-O	Policies of <u>apartheid</u> of the Government of South Africa	24/1/79	A AWV B 122* C 129* D 82 E 105 F AWV G 96 H 98 I 130* J 124* K 115 L 103 M 113 N 112* O 117	4 0 18* 6 5 10* 0 0 9* 3 0 0	0 0 28 16* 23* 20 0 4 12* 17 13* 15 10*

OTHER DECISIONS

33/401	Adoption of the agenda and allocation of agenda items	22/9/78	AWV		
33/403	United Nations Human Rights Prize	10/11/78	AWV		
33/404	Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations	10/11/78	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Absta
33/427	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization	18/12/78	AWV		
33/428	Report of the International Court of Justice	18/12/78	AWV		
33/432	Suspension of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly	20-21/12/78	AWV		
33/434	Report of the Security Council	20/12/78	AWV		
33/435	Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte	20/12/78	AWV		
33/445	Report of the Economic and Social Council	21/12/78	AWV		

PART II RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO DISARMAMENT AND RELATED (FIRST COMMITTEE) MATTERS

33/57	Implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and establishment of a preparatory committee for the second Conference	14/12/78	122*	1	16
33/58	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/76 concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)	14/12/78	AWV**		
33/59 A-B	Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons	14/12/78	A AWV B AWV		
33/60	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/78	14/12/78	134*	1	5
33/61	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/79 concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)	14/12/78	AWV		

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Voting		
			Yes	No	Abstain
33/62	Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade	14/12/78	AWV		
33/63	Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa	14/12/78	136*	0	3
33/64	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East	14/12/78	138*	0	1
33/65	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia	14/12/78	97*	2	37
33/66 A-B	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons	14/12/78	A 117* B 118	0 0	24 24*
33/67	Reduction of military budgets	14/12/78	121*	0	18
33/68	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace	14/12/78	130	0	14*
33/69	World Disarmament Conference	14/12/78	AWV		
33/70	United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	14/12/78	AWV		
33/71 A-N	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session	14/12/78	A 72 B 103 C 130* D AWV E AWV F AWV G AWV H 129 I AWV J 121* K AWV L AWV M AWV N AWV	30* 18* 2 0 0	37 18 8 13* 18
33/72 A-B	Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States	14/12/78	A 137* B 124*	2 0	4 14

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Absta
33/73	Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace	15/12/78	138*	0	2
33/74	Non-interference in the internal affairs of States	15/12/78	128	0	14*
33/75	Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security	15/12/78	119	2	19*
33/76	Situation in Nicaragua	15/12/78	85*	2	45
33/91 A-I	General and complete disarmament	16/12/78	A AWW B 132* C 127* D 117* E 93* F 105 G 126* H 108* I AWW	0 1 0 0 18* 9 10	2 10 21 40 12 1 16

OTHER DECISIONS

33/418	Languages of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean	14/12/78	AWV		
33/422	Production of a United Nations film on wars and their consequences	16/12/78	108	0	23*

PART III RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

33/5	Effects of atomic radiation	3/11/78	AWV**		
33/16	International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space	10/11/78	AWV		
33/112 A-F	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	18/12/78	A 136* B AWW C 136* D AWW E 136 F 115	0 0 1 4*	2 2 4* 22
33/113 A-C	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories	18/12/78	A 140* B 139* C 97	1 1 3	1 1 38*

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/114	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects	18/12/78	106*	11	19
33/115 A-C	Questions relating to information	18/12/78	A AWW B AWW C AWW		
33/138	Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations: amendments to rules 31 and 38 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly	19/12/78	105	29*	3

ER DECISIONS

33/402	Question of Cyprus	8/11/78	AWV		
33/425	Freedom of information	18/12/78	AWV		
33/426	Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena	18/12/78	AWV		

T IV RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS RELATING TO ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL (SECOND COMMITTEE) MATTERS

33/20	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	29/11/78	AWV**		
33/21	Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia	29/11/78	AWV		
33/22	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	29/11/78	AWV		
33/77	Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	15/12/78	AWV		
33/78	Industrial development co-operation	15/12/78	AWV		
33/79	Revision of the lists of States eligible for membership in the Industrial Development Board	15/12/78	AWV		
33/80	United Nations Children's Fund	15/12/78	AWV		

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Absta
33/81	Health needs of Palestinian refugee children	15/12/78	AWV		
33/82	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme	15/12/78	AWV		
33/83	International Year of the Child	15/12/78	AWV		
33/84	United Nations Volunteers programme	15/12/78	AWV		
33/85	United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries	15/12/78	114	0	23*
33/86	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	15/12/78	AWV		
33/87	Co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States	15/12/78	AWV		
33/88	Measures taken for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian region	15/12/78	AWV		
33/89	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	15/12/78	130*	0	10
33/90	Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council	15/12/78	AWV		
33/108	United Nations University	18/12/78	AWV		
33/109	Establishment of a University for Peace	18/12/78	AWV		
33/110	Living conditions of the Palestinian people	18/12/78	109	2	24*
33/111	International co-operation in the field of human settlements	18/12/78	AWV		
33/122	World Tourism Organization	19/12/78	AWV		
33/123	Assistance to the Comoros	19/12/78	AWV		
33/124	Assistance to Guinea-Bissau	19/12/78	AWV		
33/125	Assistance to Sao Tome and Principe	19/12/78	AWV		
33/126	Assistance to Mozambique	19/12/78	AWV		
33/127	Assistance to Cape Verde	19/12/78	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/128	Assistance to Lesotho	19/12/78	AWV		
33/129	Assistance to Seychelles	19/12/78	AWV		
33/130	Assistance to Botswana	19/12/78	AWV		
33/131	Assistance to Zambia	19/12/78	AWV		
33/132	Assistance to Djibouti	19/12/78	AWV		
33/133	Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region	19/12/78	AWV		
33/134	United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	19/12/78	AWV		
33/135	Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries	19/12/78	AWV		
33/136	Acceleration of the transfer of real resources to developing countries	19/12/78	118	1	20*
33/137	Finance for development	19/12/78	122	0	17*
33/144	Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries	20/12/78	AWV		
33/145	Sixth replenishment of the International Development Association and recapitalization of the World Bank	20/12/78	AWV		
33/146	Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon	20/12/78	AWV		
33/147	Assistance to the Palestinian people	20/12/78	102	5*	35
33/148	United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy	20/12/78	AWV		
33/149	Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries	20/12/78	AWV		
33/150	Specific action related to the particular needs of the landlocked developing countries	20/12/78	134*	0	4

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/151	Reverse transfer of technology	20/12/78	141*	0	0
33/152	Assistance to Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent	20/12/78	AWV		
33/153	United Nations Conference on Restrictive Business Practices	20/12/78	AWV		
33/154	Fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	20/12/78	AWV		
33/155	Effects of the world inflationary phenomenon on the development process	20/12/78	120	0	19*
33/156	United Nations Conference to Negotiate an International Arrangement to Replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971, as Extended	20/12/78	AWV		
33/157	United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology	20/12/78	AWV		
33/158	United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities	20/12/78	AWV		
33/159	Debt problems of the developing countries	20/12/78	119	0	22*
33/160	United Nations Conference on a Convention on International Multimodal Transport	20/12/78	AWV		
33/161	Conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency	20/12/78	AWV		
33/192	United Nations Conference on Science and Technology	29/1/79	AWV		
33/193	Preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade	29/1/79	AWV		
33/194	Multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources	29/1/79	AWV		
33/195	Economic co-operation among developing countries	29/1/79	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting	
				No	Abstain
33/196	Protectionism	29/1/79	109	1	21*
33/197	United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa	29/1/79	AWV		
33/198	Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980.	29/1/79	AWV		
33/199	Multilateral trade negotiations	29/1/79	110	11*	11
33/200	Effective mobilization and integration of women in development	29/1/79	AWV		
33/201	Comprehensive policy review of operational activities	29/1/79	AWV		
33/202	Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system	29/1/79	AWV		
OTHER DECISIONS					
33/419	Rules of procedure of pledging conferences	15/12/78	AWV		
33/420	Administrative expenses of the United Nations Capital Develop- ment Fund	15/12/78	AWV		
33/421	Marine pollution	15/12/78	AWV		
33/431	United Nations Special Fund	19/12/78	AWV		
33/436	Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council	20/12/78	AWV		
33/437	Preparations for a new inter- national development strategy	20/12/78	AWV		
33/438	Review of progress in the imple- mentation of special measures and specific action related to the particular needs of the land- locked developing countries	20/12/78	AWV		
33/446	Records of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development	29/1/79	AWV		
33/447	Report of the Economic and Social Council on the imple- mentation of General Assembly resolution 32/197	29/1/79	AWV		

PART V RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL (THIRD COMMITTEE) MATTER

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/6	Channels of communication with youth and youth organizations	3/11/78	AWV**		
33/7	International Youth Year	3/11/78	AWV		
33/8	Physical education and sports exchanges among young people	3/11/78	AWV		
33/23	Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa	29/11/78	100	7	22*
33/24	Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights	29/11/78	92	19*	20
33/25	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	29/11/78	AWV		
33/26	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	29/11/78	AWV		
33/47	National experience in promoting the co-operative movement	14/12/78	AWV		
33/48	World social development	14/12/78	125*	0	12
33/49	Preservation and further development of cultural values	14/12/78	AWV		
33/50	Protection, restitution and return of cultural and artistic property as part of the preservation and further development of cultural values	14/12/78	127*	0	13
33/51	International Covenants on Human Rights	14/12/78	AWV		
33/52	World Assembly on the Elderly	14/12/78	AWV		

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/53	Human rights and scientific and technological developments	14/12/78	83*	0	48
33/54	Review and co-ordination of human rights programmes of organizations in the United Nations system and co-operation with other international programmes in the field of human rights	14/12/78	AWV		
33/98	Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	16/12/78	124	0	12*
33/99	World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	16/12/78	107	18*	11
33/100	Results of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	16/12/78	101	19*	15
33/101	Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Of Racial Discrimination	16/12/78	AWV		
33/102	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	16/12/78	AWV		
33/103	Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of <u>Apartheid</u>	16/12/78	109	0	30*
33/104	Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	16/12/78	AWV		
33/105	Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	16/12/78	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/106	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance	16/12/78	118*	0	21
33/162	Migratory labour in southern Africa	20/12/78	AWV		
33/163	Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of migrant workers	20/12/78	124*	0	14
33/164	Assistance to South African student refugees	20/12/78	AWV		
33/165	Status of persons refusing service in military or police forces used to enforce <u>apartheid</u>	20/12/78	AWV		
33/166	Question of a convention on the rights of the child	20/12/78	AWV		
33/167	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights	20/12/78	AWV		
33/168	Narcotic drugs	20/12/78	AWV		
33/169	Protection of the human rights of arrested or detained trade union activists	20/12/78	AWV		
33/170	International Year for Disabled Persons	20/12/78	AWV		
33/171	<u>United Nations Yearbook on Human Rights</u>	20/12/78	AWV		
33/172	Missing persons in Cyprus	20/12/78	69	6	55*
33/173	Disappeared persons	20/12/78	AWV		
33/174	Establishment of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile	20/12/78	98*	6	35
33/175	Protection of human rights in Chile	20/12/78	96*	7	38
33/176	Importance of the experience of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile	20/12/78	54*	17	66
33/177	Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	20/12/78	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/178	Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	20/12/78	AWV		
33/179	Draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials	20/12/78	AWV		
33/184	Importance of the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields for the achievement of the equality of women with men	29/1/79	88	0	22*
33/185	Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, including the adoption of the subtheme of Employment, Health and Education	29/1/79	AWV		
33/186	Rationalization of the reporting system on the status of women	29/1/79	AWV		
33/187	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	29/1/79	AWV		
33/188	Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women	29/1/79	AWV		
33/189	World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace	29/1/79	AWV		
33/190	Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace	29/1/79	AWV		
33/191	Venue of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace	29/1/79	AWV		

OTHER DECISIONS

33/406	United Nations conference for an international convention on adoption law	29/11/78	AWV		
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PART VI RESOLUTION RELATING TO DECOLONIZATION (FOURTH COMMITTEE) MATTERS

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Absta
33/30	Question of the New Hebrides	13/12/78	AWV**		
33/31 A-B	Question of Western Sahara	13/12/78	A 90 B 66	10 30	39* 40*
33/32	Question of American Samoa	13/12/78	AWV		
33/33	Question of Guam	13/12/78	AWV		
33/34	Question of the United States Virgin Islands	13/12/78	AWV		
33/35	Question of Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands	13/12/78	AWV		
33/36	Question of Belize	13/12/78	127*	1	12
33/37	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <u>e</u> of the Charter of the United Nations	13/12/78	138*	0	3
33/38 A-B	Question of Southern Rhodesia	13/12/78	A 130 B 124	0 0	11* 15*
33/39	Question of East Timor	13/12/78	59	31	44*
33/40	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia and Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, <u>apartheid</u> and racial discrimination in southern Africa	13/12/78	83	14*	34
33/41	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	13/12/78	133	0	8*

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/42	United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	13/12/78	AWV		
33/43	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	13/12/78	AWV		

OTHER DECISIONS

33/407	Question of Namibia	7/12/78	AWV		
33/408	Question of Gibraltar	13/12/78	AWV		
33/409	Question of Tokelau	13/12/78	AWV		
33/410	Question of St. Helena	13/12/78	AWV		
33/411	Question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	13/12/78	AWV		
33/412	Question of Brunei	13/12/78	AWV		
33/413	Questions of Pitcairn, of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and of the Gilbert Islands	13/12/78	AWV		
33/414	Question of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent	13/12/78	AWV		

PART VII RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY (FIFTH COMMITTEE) MATTERS

33/10	Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors	3/11/78	AWV**		
33/11	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations	3/11/78	AWV		
33/12	Amendment to rule 159 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly	3/11/78	AWV		
33/13	Financing of the United Nations	3/11/78	A 110*	4	14
A-F	Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	1/12/78	B 95*	3	12
		8/12/78	C 94*	3	11
		8/12/78	D 94*	3	11
		14/12/78	E 105*	9	14
		14/12/78	F 111*	9	9

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly		Yes	Voting No	Absta	
33/14	Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	3/11/78		114*	13	4	
33/55	Pattern of conferences	14/12/78		AWV			
33/56	Control and limitation of documentation	14/12/78		AWV			
					A		
33/116 A,B & C	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979	19/12/78	I	116*	0	9	
			II	AWV			
			III	AWV			
			IV	114*	0	14	
			V	AWV			
			VI	118*	10	2	
					B		
			21/12/78	I	AWV		
				II	AWV		
				III	AWV		
		IV	AWV				
		V	AWV				
		VI	AWV				
		VII	AWV				
		VIII	125*	0	9		
		IX	124*	9	0		
					C		
		29/1/79	I	AWV			
			II	AWV			
			III	112*	0	11	
			IV	AWV			
			V	AWV			
			VI	123*	0	1	
			VII	99	18	7*	
			VIII	AWV			
			IX	AWV			
			X	104*	10	8	
33/117	Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations	19/12/78		AWV			
33/118	Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983	19/12/78		122*	0	11	
33/119	Report of the International Civil Service Commission	19/12/78		126*	0	10	
33/120	Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board	19/12/78		129*	0	10	

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/121 A-B	Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in transnational corporations and in developing countries	19/12/78	A 115 B AWV	18*	6
33/142	Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency	20/12/78	AWV		
33/143	Personnel questions	20/12/78	132*	0	10
33/180 A-C	Interim action regarding the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979	21/12/78	A 113 B AWV C 124*	15 9	3* 0
33/181	Accommodation at the Vienna International Centre	21/12/78	126*	0	11
33/203	Form of presentation of the United Nations budget	29/1/79	AWV		
33/204	Determination of activities that have been completed, are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective	29/1/79	123*	0	0
33/205 A-C	Programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979	29/1/79	A 98 B 103 C 101	15 0 14	9* 22* 8*

OTHER DECISIONS

33/405	Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea	10/11/78	86*	9	18
33/415	Review of the intergovernmental and expert machinery dealing with the formulation, review and approval of programmes and budgets	14/12/78	AWV		
33/416	Management of conference resources	14/12/78	AWV		
33/417	Organization of the work of United Nations bodies	14/12/78	AWV		
33/429	Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	19/12/78	118*	8	8
33/430	Financial emergency of the United Nations	19/12/78	AWV		

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/433	Amendment to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations	20/12/78	AWV		
33/439	Programme budget support of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1979	21/12/78	116*	11	0
33/440	Continuation of the expenditure for the Integrated Programme for Commodities	21/12/78	125*	9	0
33/441	United Nations accommodation at Nairobi	21/12/78	AWV		
33/442	Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters	21/12/78	113*	13	10
33/443	Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit	21/12/78	AWV		
33/444	Chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Fifth Committee	21/12/78	AWV		

PART VIII RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO LEGAL (SIXTH COMMITTEE) MATTERS

33/19	Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages	29/11/78	AWV**		
33/92	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	16/12/78	AWV		
33/93	United Nations Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods	16/12/78	AWV		
33/94	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	16/12/78	AWV		

* Indicates how Canada voted.

**AWV: Common parlance at the UN, adopted by consensus.

Resolution No.	Title	Date of Adoption in the General Assembly	Yes	Voting No	Abstain
33/95	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country	16/12/78	AWV		
33/96	Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations	16/12/78	117	1	23*
33/97	Draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind	16/12/78	116	0	23*
33/139	Report of the International Law Commission	19/12/78	AWV		
33/140	Implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961	19/12/78	AWV		
33/141 A-B	Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations	19/12/78	A AWV B AWV		

OTHER DECISIONS

33/423	Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations	16/12/78	AWV		
33/424	Consolidation and progressive evolution of the norms and principles of international economic development law	16/12/78	AWV		

PART III

APPENDICES

INSTRUMENTS OF OFFICIAL CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Bureau of United Nations Affairs
Department of External Affairs, Ottawa

The Bureau of United Nations Affairs (UNP) is charged primarily with the management of Canadian policy with respect to the activities of the United Nations system of organizations. It is a basic premise of Canadian policy to continue actively to strengthen the United Nations system as an effective instrument for international co-operation and, in particular, to improve the capacity of the United Nations to discharge its Charter responsibilities. In pursuing these objectives, the Bureau consults continuously with other bureaux and government departments and agencies.

UNP consists of two operational divisions. The United Nations Political and Institutional Affairs Division (UNO) is responsible for assessing the political implications of developments in the Security Council, the General Assembly and other UN organizations, and coordinating Canadian policy and activities in these areas. The Division also looks after Canadian policy and activities with respect to ECOSOC. It examines and coordinates as well Canadian policy and activities regarding the institutional development of the United Nations system and the coordination of administrative, personnel management, financial and budgetary matters throughout the United Nations family of organizations. The United Nations Social and Humanitarian Affairs Division (UNS) has as its field of responsibility the coordination of Canadian policy and activities concerning social affairs, refugee and emergency relief, and human rights. Through direction, coordination and liaison, both divisions attempt to maximize the opportunities offered in the United Nations and related institutions for the advancement of a broad range of Canadian national goals.

Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York

Almost all members of the UN, including Canada, have found it necessary and advantageous to maintain a continuing representation at the seat of the United Nations. The first Canadian Permanent Mission in New York was established in January, 1948, with the appointment of General McNaughton as the first Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The following individuals have served as Canadian Permanent Representative:

	General McNaughton	January 1948-December 1949
(acting)	J.W. Holmes	January 1950-June 1950
	R.G. Riddell	June 1950-June 1951
	D.M. Johnson	November 1951-August 1955
	R.A. MacKay	August 1955-November 1957
	C.S.A. Ritchie	January 1958-February 1962
	P. Tremblay	July 1962-June 1966
	G. Ignatieff	July 1966-February 1969
	Y. Beaulne	February 1969-June 1972
	S.F. Rae	July 1972-July 1976
	W.H. Barton	August 1976-

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The delegation of a Member shall consist of not more than five representatives, and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation (Rule 25 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation (Rule 26 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure).

In practice, no distinction is made between a delegate and alternate delegate representative. The Canadian Delegation to any session of the United Nations General Assembly is appointed by Cabinet upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (SSEA). Normally, the delegation will consist of ten members: five representatives and five alternates. The chairman of the delegation is usually the SSEA and the vice-chairman the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Individual members of the delegation are assigned responsibilities for one or other of the seven main committees. Invariably, the SSEA returns to Ottawa during the session and direction of the delegation devolves upon the vice-chairman.

In addition to the delegates themselves, a number of advisers are named, at least one for each of the seven main committees. The Permanent Mission in New York and the Bureau of United Nations Affairs in Ottawa provide most of the advisers assigned to the delegation but officers from other missions, other divisions in Ottawa, and other government departments may also be appointed (often for short periods to cope with specific agenda items).

OBSERVERS ON THE CANADIAN DELEGATION

For a number of years, it has been the practice of the Canadian Government to appoint representatives from the various national political parties as parliamentary observers to sessions of the General Assembly. Senators and Members of Parliament have been selected in rough accordance with the number of seats held by each party in the respective legislative chambers. On occasion, private citizens with a professional concern for United Nations affairs have also been appointed as observers in one or another capacity.

It is believed that as an individual becomes more aware of the potential and limitations of the United Nations system, so his ability to identify and evaluate possible courses of action for the resolution of international problems is enhanced. Also, even though most Parliamentarians are familiar with the problems under discussion in the United Nations, experience as an observer may contribute to a deeper understanding of specific issues troubling the world community and the way these issues affect Canada.

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
MEMBER STATES

The General Assembly is composed of all 151 member states of the United Nations, each of which is entitled to have five representatives seated in the assembly chamber.

	Date of admission		Date of admission
Afghanistan	19/11/46	Equitorial Guinea	12/11/68
Albania	14/12/55	* Ethiopia	
Algeria	8/10/62	Fiji	13/10/70
Angola	1/12/76	Finland	14/12/55
* Argentina		* France	
* Australia		Gabon	20/9/60
Austria	14/12/55	Gambia	21/9/65
Bahamas	18/9/73	German Democratic	
Bahrain	21/9/71	Republic	18/9/73
Bangladesh	17/9/74	Germany, Federal	
Barbados	9/12/66	Republic of	18/9/73
* Belgium		Ghana	8/3/57
Benin	20/9/66	* Greece	
Bhutan	21/9/71	Grenada	17/9/74
* Bolivia		* Guatemala	
Botswana	17/10/66	Guinea	12/12/58
* Brazil		Guinea-Bissau	17/9/74
Bulgaria	14/12/55	Guyana	20/9/66
Burma	19/4/48	* Haiti	
Burundi	18/9/62	* Honduras	
* Byelorussian SSR		Hungary	14/12/55
Cameroon	20/9/60	Iceland	19/11/46
* Canada		* India	
Cape Verde	16/9/75	Indonesia	28/9/50
Central African		* Iran	
Empire	20/9/60	* Iraq	
Chad	20/9/60	Ireland	14/12/55
* Chile		Israel	11/5/49
* China		Italy	14/12/55
* Colombia		Ivory Coast	20/9/60
Comoros	12/11/75	Jamaica	18/9/62
Congo	20/9/60	Japan	18/12/56
* Costa Rica		Jordan	14/12/55
* Cuba		Kenya	16/12/63
Cyprus	20/9/60	Kuwait	14/5/63
* Czechoslovakia		Laos	14/12/55
Democratic Kampuchea	14/12/55	* Lebanon	
Democratic Yemen	14/12/67	Lesotho	17/10/66
* Denmark		* Liberia	
Djibouti	20/9/77	Libya	14/12/55
Dominica	18/12/78	* Luxembourg	
* Dominican Republic		Madagascar	20/9/60
* Ecuador		Malawi	1/12/64
* Egypt		Malaysia	17/9/57
* El Salvador		Maldives	21/9/65

* Original members, i.e. countries that participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945 or had previously signed the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, and that signed and ratified the Charter on June 26, 1945.

	Date of admission		Date of admission
Mali	28/9/60	Singapore	21/9/65
Malta	1/12/64	Solomon Islands	19/9/78
Mauritania	27/10/61	Somalia	20/9/60
* Mexico		* South Africa	
Mongolia	27/10/61	Spain	14/12/55
Morocco	12/11/56	Sri Lanka	14/12/55
Mozambique	12/9/75	Sudan	12/11/56
Nepal	14/12/55	Surinam	4/12/75
* Netherlands		Swaziland	24/9/68
* New Zealand		Sweden	19/11/46
* Nicaragua		* Syria	
Niger	20/9/60	Tanzania	14/12/61
Nigeria	7/10/60	Thailand	16/12/46
* Norway		Togo	20/9/60
Oman	7/10/71	Trinidad and Tobago	18/9/62
Pakistan	30/9/60	Tunisia	12/11/56
* Panama		* Turkey	
Papua New Guinea	10/10/75	Uganda	25/10/62
* Paraguay		* Ukrainian SSR	
* Peru		* Union of Soviet	
* Philippines		Socialist Republics	
* Poland		United Arab Emirates	9/12/71
Portugal	14/12/55	* United Kingdom	
Qatar	21/9/71	* United States of	
Romania	14/12/55	America	
Rwanda	18/9/62	Upper Volta	20/9/60
Samoa	15/12/76	* Uruguay	
Sao Tomé and		* Venezuela	
Principe	16/9/75	Viet Nam	20/9/77
* Saudi Arabia		Yemen	30/9/47
Senegal	28/9/60	* Yugoslavia	
Seychelles	21/9/76	Zaire	20/9/60
Sierra Leone	27/9/61	Zambia	1/12/64

OBSERVERS

Observer status is not provided for in the UN Charter. Over the years, however the Secretary-General has granted such a status to non-member states with some form of association with the UN system, e.g. membership in the Specialized Agencies. Five countries currently maintain observer missions in New York: Switzerland, Monaco, the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Through special resolutions, the General Assembly has also granted observer status to six associations of states: the OAS, the Arab League, the OAU, the EEC the COMECON and the Islamic Conference. The Palestine Liberation Organization was also granted observer status by the General Assembly in 1974. At the thirty-first session, the General Assembly agreed to the application of the Commonwealth Secretariat for observer status, which Canada co-sponsored. Observer status was also granted to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL GROUPINGS*

PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

China	United Kingdom	USSR
France	USA	

WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS**

Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Iceland	Norway
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Canada	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malta	Turkey
Germany, Federal Republic of	Netherlands	

EASTERN EUROPE

Albania	German Democratic Republic	Ukrainian SSR
Bulgaria	Hungary	Yugoslavia
Byelorussian SSR	Poland	
Czechoslovakia	Romania	

AFRICA AND ASIA

AFRICA

Algeria	Ghana	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Angola	Guinea	Senegal
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Botswana	Ivory Coast	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Kenya	Somalia
Cameroon	Lesotho	South Africa
Cape Verde	Liberia	Sudan
Central African Empire	Libya	Swaziland
Chad	Madagascar	Tanzania
Comoros	Malawi	Togo
Congo	Mali	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mauritania	Uganda
Egypt	Mauritius	Upper Volta
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Zaire
Ethiopia	Mozambique	Zambia
Gabon	Niger	
Gambia	Nigeria	
	Rwanda	

* These groups are unofficial and have been established to take account of the purposes of resolutions 1990 and 1991 of the 18th session of the General Assembly.

** France and the UK are members of WEOG but the United States does not participate. In regional meetings of various committees, particularly the Second and Fifth Committee, both the USA and Japan attend WEOG meetings. For electoral purposes to subsidiary bodies (mostly economic and social) observers are considered part of WEOG and occupy seats so allocated.

ASIA

Afghanistan	Israel	Papua New Guinea
Bahrain	Japan	Philippines
Bangladesh	Jordan	Qatar
Bhutan	Kuwait	Samoa
Burma	Laos	Saudi Arabia
Cyprus	Lebanon	Singapore
Democratic Kampuchea	Malaysia	Solomon Islands
Democratic Yemen	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Fiji	Mongolia	Syria
India	Nepal	Thailand
Indonesia	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Iran	Pakistan	Viet Nam
Iraq	Papua New Guinea	Yemen

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Mexico
Bahamas	Ecuador	Nicaragua
Barbados	El Salvador	Panama
Bolivia	Grenada	Peru
Brazil	Guatemala	Surinam
Chile	Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Haiti	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Honduras	Venezuela
Cuba	Jamaica	
Dominica		

NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

The 85 countries which, in addition to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), attended the conference of foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries held in Belgrade on July 25-30, 1978, as full members were the following:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta, Vietnam, North Yemen, South Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia. In addition Belize, with a special status, was also represented.

Also present at the Conference were 10 states with observer status: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. Guest countries were Pakistan, San Marino, Austria, Finland, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland. Certain liberation movements and international organizations (all as observers) also attended, among them the two wings of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe -i.e. the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)-as well as the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the African National Congress (of South Africa), the First Pan African Congress of Azania (South Africa), the Arab League, the Islamic Conference, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations.

THE COMMONWEALTH

There are now 39 members of the Commonwealth: Australia (1901)*, Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966), Botswana (1966), Canada (1867), Cyprus (1961), Dominica, Fiji (1970), Gambia (1965), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1957), Malta (1964), Mauritius (1968), Nauru (1968)**, New Zealand (1907), Nigeria (1960), Papua-New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Solomon Islands (1978), Sri Lanka (1948), Swaziland (1968), Tanzania (1961), Tonga (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Tuvalu (1978), Uganda (1962), United Kingdom, Western Samoa (1970), Zambia (1964).

* Date of membership

** Nauru is a special member, with the right to participate in all functional Commonwealth meetings and activities but not the right to attend meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government.

GROUP OF 77

The membership of the Group of 77 has grown to 117 from the original 77 members that signed the Joint Declaration of Developing Countries at the conclusion of the First United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva in 1964. Tunisia is Chairman of the group for the period October 1978 to October 1979. The members of the Group of 77 follow:

49 African Members: Algeria*, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi*, Cameroon*, Cape Verde, Central African Empire*, Chad*, Comoros, Congo*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia*, Gabon*, Gambia, Ghana*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya*, Lesotho, Liberia*, Libya*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mali*, Mauritania*, Mauritius, Morocco*, Mozambique, Niger*, Nigeria*, Rwanda*, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal*, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Somalia*, Sudan*, Swaziland, Tanzania*, Togo*, Tunisia*, Uganda*, Upper Volta*, Zaire*, Zambia; 37 Asian Members: Afghanistan*, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma*, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Fiji, India*, Indonesia*, Iran*, Iraq*, Jordan*, Kuwait*, Laos*, Lebanon*, Malaysia*, Maldives, Nepal*, Oman, Pakistan*, Palestine Liberation Organization, Papua New Guinea, Philippines*, Qatar, Republic of Korea*, Saudi Arabia*, Singapore, Viet Nam*, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka*, Syria*, Thailand*, United Arab Emirates, Yemen*; 27 Latin American and Caribbean Members: Argentina*, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia*, Brazil*, Chile*, Colombia*, Costa Rica*, Cuba, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador*, El Salvador*, Grenada, Guatemala*, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras*, Jamaica*, Mexico*, Nicaragua*, Panama*, Paraguay*, Peru*, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago*, Uruguay*, Venezuela*; 2 Western European & Others: Cyprus*, Malta; 2 Eastern European: Romania, Yugoslavia*.

* Original Members



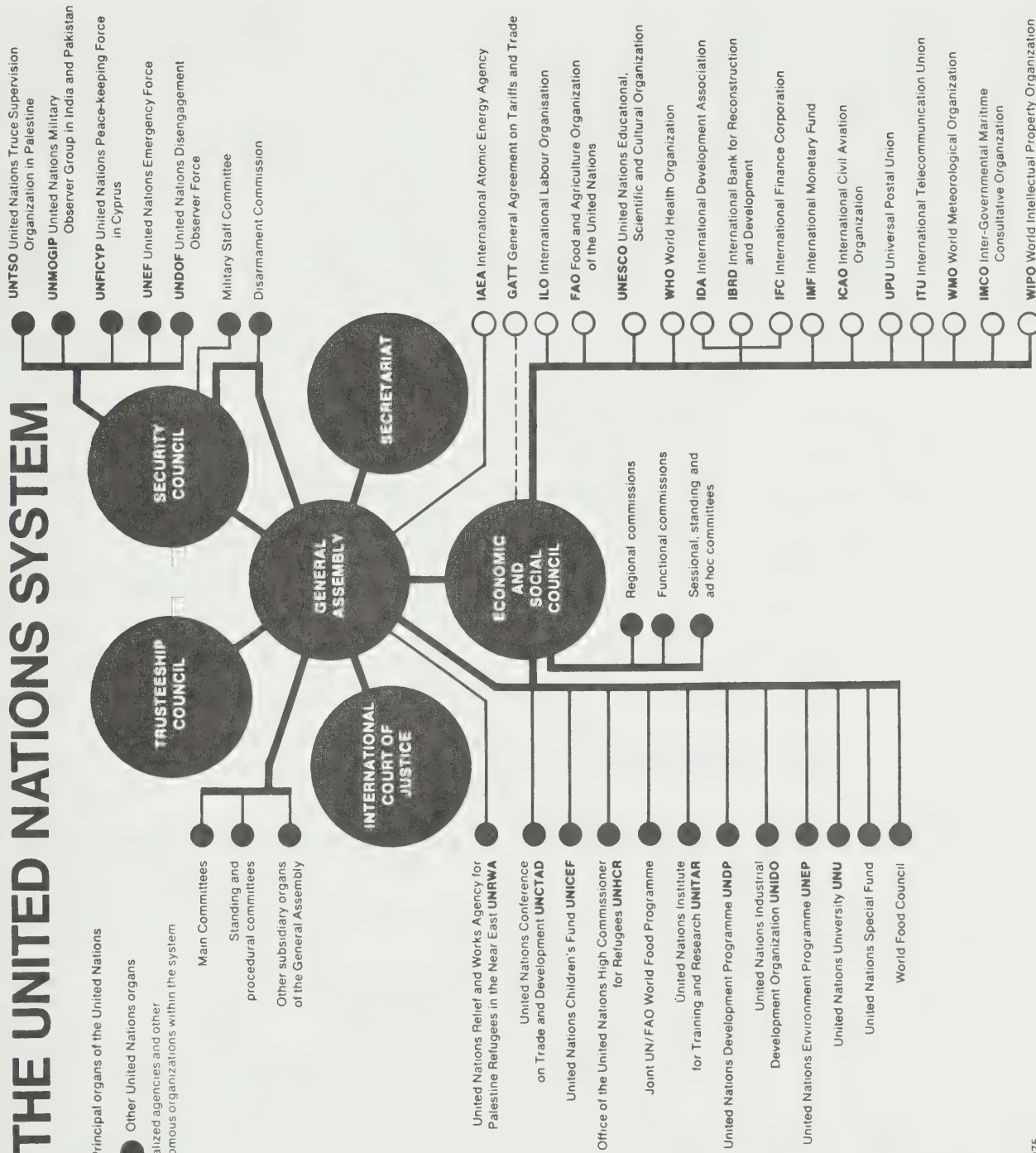
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Principal organs of the United Nations

Other United Nations organs

Specialized agencies and other autonomous organizations within the system

Main Committees
Standing and procedural committees
Other subsidiary organs of the General Assembly



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FUNCTIONS

The General Assembly is the plenary organ of the United Nations and comprises representatives of all member countries. The Assembly's formal functions are the following:

- To consider and make recommendations on the principles of international co-operation in the maintenance of peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments;
- To discuss any problem affecting peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;
- To discuss and, with the same exception, to make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- To initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political co-operation, the development of international law and its codification, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;
- To receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations;
- To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situations regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;
- To supervise, through the Trusteeship Council, the execution of the trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic;
- To elect the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, those members of the Trusteeship Council that are elected; to take part with the Security Council in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice; and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General; to elect members of the Economic and Social Council. At present, the Council comprises 54 members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is presided over by the President, who is elected at the start of each session and holds office until its close. His general powers are to declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, direct discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of the rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. In the election of the President, due regard is made for equitable geographical rotation of the office.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly also elects seventeen Vice-Presidents. If the President finds it necessary to be absent during the whole or part of a meeting, he appoints one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place. In 1963, the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents would be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) seven from the Afro-Asian group,
- (b) one from the East European group,
- (c) three from the Latin American group,
- (d) two from the Western European and Other Group (which includes Canada),
- (e) five from the permanent members of the Security Council.

The election of the President has the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents from the region from which the President is elected.

MAIN COMMITTEES

The General Assembly deals with most of its work through seven main committees on which all members have the right to be represented. Although each member may be represented by only one person on each committee, each may assign advisers and experts to these committees. Upon the designation of the chairman of each delegation, the advisers and experts may act as members of the committee. Quorum is one-quarter of the members of each committee, but the presence of a majority of the members is required for a question to be put to a vote. Decision is by majority. (See Rules 98-134 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)

The seven chairmen of the main committees are elected on the following pattern:

- (a) three from the Afro-Asian group,
- (b) one from the East European group,
- (c) one from the Latin American group,
- (d) one from the Western European and Other Group,
- (e) one to rotate every alternate year among representatives of groups (c) and (d).

The main committees are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| FIRST COMMITTEE | - political and security questions (notably disarmament) |
| SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE | - political questions not discussed by the First Committee |
| SECOND COMMITTEE | - economic and financial matters |
| THIRD COMMITTEE | - social, humanitarian and cultural questions |
| FOURTH COMMITTEE | - Trusteeship Committee (including non-self governing territories) |
| FIFTH COMMITTEE | - administrative and budgetary questions |
| SIXTH COMMITTEE | - legal questions |

The General Assembly, as a rule, refers all questions on its agenda to one of the main committees, to a joint committee, or to an ad hoc committee established to consider the question. These committees then submit proposals for approval to a plenary meeting of the Assembly. Questions not referred to a main committee are dealt with by the Assembly itself in plenary meetings.

OTHER BODIES

In addition to the main committees, the General Assembly is assisted mainly by these bodies:

- (1) The General Committee, composed of the President, 17 Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the chairmen of the seven main committees, is a steering group that meets during the first week of the session to recommend the inclusion of items in the agenda, the allocation of an agenda item to committee, and to supervise the smooth running of the Assembly's work.
- (2) The Credentials Committee, appointed by the President at each session, verifies the credentials of the representatives (both the USSR and USA traditionally have been members).
- (3) The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions provides expert examination of the UN budget.
- (4) The Committee on contributions advises the General Assembly on the apportionment of the expenses of the organization among the members.
- (5) The Committee on Conferences advises the General Assembly on the program of conferences and acts on behalf of the General Assembly between sessions.

Subsidiary and ad hoc bodies are also set up as necessary.

VOTING

Voting on important questions, such as recommendations on peace and security, election of members to the main organs, admission, suspension and expulsion of members, trusteeship questions and budgetary matters, is by two-thirds majority. Voting on other questions is by simple majority. Each member of the General Assembly has one vote.

In determining two-thirds or simple majorities, only "yes" and "no" votes are counted, not abstentions. However, in UN practice an abstention has come to be a respected and widely-used method of indicating a government's position on issues on which a variety of conflicting factors come into play and where a simple "yes" or "no" vote would not be an accurate reflection of the attitude of a government. Quite often explanations of a Member State's vote are made before or after the vote.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The General Assembly meets once a year in regular session for about three months, commencing on the third Tuesday in September. Special sessions may also be convened at the request of the Security Council, a majority of the UN members, or one member if the majority of members concur. An emergency special session may also be called within 24 hours of a request by the Security Council on the vote of any nine members of the Council, by a majority of the UN members, or by one member if the majority concur.

Sessions are opened by the President of the previous session (or the chairman of his country's delegation) and the first task on the agenda, after the appointment of the Credentials Committee, is the election of a new President for the next 12 months. The convention is firmly established that he should not be a representative of a great power. The President is elected by secret ballot, but normally private arrangements are made before the session opens to find a candidate for whom an impressive majority of the votes can be mustered. The

President's powers are limited, but able officials have done a good deal through their personal influence to smooth the work of a session and maintain the interests of the Organization against the sectional pressures of the membership. At the side of the new President sits the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Under-Secretary General for Assembly Affairs who, in his capacity as Secretary of the General Assembly, acts as would a parliamentary clerk to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Following the election of Vice-Presidents and committee chairmen (the next items on the agenda), the Secretary-General proceeds to "notify" the General Assembly of "any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council". After the adoption of the agenda itself, there follows the general debate. This "debate" often lasts more than three weeks, and is the occasion for nearly all member states to present the principle policy objectives of their governments in the form of a "tour d'horizon" of significant world affairs. The general debate is followed by reports from the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These are followed in turn by the elections of members to various UN councils, boards and commissions whenever such elections are due.

All the remaining agenda items are related to specific issues. Some have become very familiar over the years, and are carried over from one session to the next. Others evidence the UN's continuing concern for tackling current problems and are added to the agenda at the request of the Secretary-General, a principal organ of the UN, or a member state.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is the main UN organ responsible for enforcement of peace and security. It is composed of 15 members; five of them are permanent members each with a veto power. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years and, according to the Charter, the criteria for election are based on "due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution".

Canada was a member of the Security Council in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68. Canada was elected once again to the Council for 1977 and 1978 at the elections held during the thirty-first UN General Assembly. The membership picture for 1978 was as follows:

	1978
Permanent members	China France United Kingdom USA USSR
Africa	Gabon Mauritius Nigeria
Asia	India Kuwait

Latin America	Bolivia Venezuela
Western Europe and others	Canada West Germany
Eastern Europeans	Czechoslovakia

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF SPECIAL BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Waldheim, Kurt (Austria) Secretary-General of the UN

Equivalent Ranks - Special Bodies of the United Nations

Corea, Gamani (Sri Lanka)	Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Labouisse, Henry R. (USA)	Executive Director of UNICEF
Hartling, Poul (Denmark)	High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR
McElhiney, Thomas W. (USA)	Commissioner General, UNRWA
Morse, Bradford (USA)	Administrator of UNDP
Nicol, Davidson (Sierre Leone)	Executive Director, UNITAR
Khane, Abderrahmane (Algeria)	Executive Director, UNIDO
Tolba, Dr. Mostafa (Egypt)	Executive Director, UNEP

Specialized Agencies, IAEA and GATT

Blanchard, Francis (France)	Director-General, ILO
Saouma, Edouard (Lebanon)	Director-General, FAO
M'Bow, Amadou M. (Senegal)	Director-General, UNESCO
Mahler, Dr. Halfdan (Denmark)	Director-General, WHO
McNamara Robert S. (USA)	President of World Bank (IBRD, IDA, IFC)
Witteveen, H. Johannes (Netherlands)	Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director IMF
Lambert, Mr. Yves (France)	Secretary-General, ICAO
Sobhi, Mohamed Ibrahim (Egypt)	Director-General, UPU
Mili, Mohamed (Tunisia)	Secretary-General ITU
Davies, David A. (Britain)	Secretary-General, WMO
Srivastava, C.P. (India)	Secretary-General, IMCO
Bogsch, Dr. Arpad (USA)	Director-General, WIPO

IAEA

The statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency entered into force on July 29, 1957. It is not a Specialized Agency, but an independent intergovernmental organization under the aegis of the United Nations. The purpose of the Agency, as defined in its statute, is "to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world". Its Director-General is Sigvard Eklund (Sweden).

GATT

Formally, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is an interim step on the road to a more comprehensive international trade organization. In practice, however, it has existed for almost 30 years as a virtually autonomous body, administered by a separate secretariat and governed by the contracting parties to the Agreement, of which Canada is one. At present, 84 states are members of the GATT and major multilateral trade negotiations have traditionally taken place under its auspices. Its Director-General is Olivier Long (Switzerland).

CANADA IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

CANADA'S POLICIES AND GOALS

As the activities of the UN touch many if not all of Canada's national objectives and policies, Canada regards the UN as an important instrument in trying to achieve these objectives and policies in their international context. Since the foreign policy review, Canadian activities in the UN system have emphasized the themes of economic growth, social justice, quality of life and peace and security.

Central to the Canadian approach is the belief that Canada should actively work to help make the UN an effective means of developing international co-operation. Equally Canada thinks it important to help improve the capacity of the UN to carry out its Charter responsibilities.

Within the UN, Canada has focused on the following objectives, a detailed description of which is found in Foreign Policy for Canadians: United Nations (published in 1970):

- contributing to social and economic development
- working to stop the arms race
- promoting peacekeeping and peace-making through the United Nations
- reconciling Canadian objectives in southern Africa
- taking measures to prevent further deterioration in the human environment
- promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of satellite systems
- promoting international co-operation in the use of the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction
- promoting observance of human rights, including adherence to and respect for various UN conventions
- contributing to the progressive development and codification of international law
- projecting Canada as a bilingual country within the United Nations context
- contributing to the institutional development of the UN as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Since these objectives were formulated, progress has been made towards achieving many of them and Canadian goals have become more clearly defined with respect, for example, to the achievement of racial equality in southern Africa and the negotiations for a revised law of the sea.

REGULAR BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The thirty-second session of the General Assembly voted budget appropriations of \$985,913,300 (US) for the biennial fiscal period 1978-79. The thirty-third session voted a supplementary appropriation that had the effect of increasing the net biennial budget by almost 39 percent as compared with the net expenses for 1976-77. For the first time the UN budget was over a billion dollars. On that vote, the countries that contribute approximately 75 percent of the UN budget, including Canada, either abstained or voted against the supplementary budget proposals.

CANADA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SYSTEM - 1960-1979

Fiscal Year (ends March 31)	Canada's contribution to UN regular budget (\$000 Cdn)	Percent assessment
1960	1,536	3.11
1961	1,860	3.11
1962	2,181	3.12
1963	2,356	3.12
1964	3,115	3.12
1965	2,774	3.17
1966	3,481	3.17
1967	3,588	3.17
1968	3,795	3.02
1969	4,049	3.02
1970	4,557	3.02
1971	4,891	3.08
1972	5,490	3.08
1973	5,770	3.08
1974	7,169	3.18
1975	8,838	3.18
1976	9,856	3.18
1977	9,593	2.96
1978	13,470	3.04
1979	17,171	3.04

CANADA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SYSTEM*
(\$000 Cdn)

	Fiscal year ending March 31/79	Fiscal year ending March 31/78	Fiscal year ending March 31/77
I UN Regular Budget	17,171	13,470	9,593
II Peacekeeping			
UNEF/UNDOF	2,782	3,589	2,803
UNIFIL	3,682		
III Social and Economic Programs			
UNDP	39,000	34,000	29,000
UNHCR	1,000	850	750
UNICEF	7,500	8,600	6,500
UNRWA**	5,150	4,000	3,550
UNITAR	80	80	70
UNEPTSA	275	250	225
WFP**	95,000	95,000	101,400
UNFPA	7,000	7,000	5,000

* Canada generally ranks sixth, seventh or eighth among the contributing countries.

** The contributions to UNRWA and WFP include a cash portion and a contribution in kind such as food grains.

	Fiscal year ending March 31/79	Fiscal year ending March 31/78	Fiscal year ending March 31/77
Committee on Racial Discrimination	5	5	3
Trust Fund for South Africa	20	20	10
Fund for Drug Abuse Control	100	200	200
Voluntary Fund for Environment	1,109	2 618	1,474
IV Specialized Agencies and IAEA			
ILO	4,349	3,288	2,386
FAO	4,640	5,015	2,928
WHO	6,574	5,206	4,084
UNESCO	5,198	3,484	3,403
ICAO	661	578	498
IMCO	60	53	47
ITU	1,639	1,229	928
WMO	426	291	286
UPU	480	365	291
WIPO	86	180	144
IAEA	2,431	1,648	1,236
GATT	1,249	805	697
V UN Association in Canada	55	55	55

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UN SYSTEM.

1. On January 1, 1977, Canada became a member of the Security Council for the fourth time. Its term expired on December 31 1978. By virtue of this seat, Canada was a member of the following Security Council bodies:

Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure
Committee on the Admission of New Members
Committee on Southern Rhodesia

2. As a member of the United Nations, Canada is represented at each session of the United Nations General Assembly, including the seven main committees:

First Committee (political and security)
Special Political Committee (political questions not discussed by First Committee)
Second Committee (economic and financial)
Third Committee (social, humanitarian and cultural)
Fourth Committee (trusteeship, including non-self-governing territories)
Fifth Committee (administrative and budgetary)
Sixth Committee (legal)

3. Canada participates in the following subsidiary or ad hoc bodies of the United Nations General Assembly:

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (Committee of 33)
Special Committee on the Financial Situation of the United Nations
Special Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Board of Auditors
Committee on Conferences

Committee on Contributions
Collective Measures Committee
Disarmament Commission
United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee
UNSCEAR - United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
Advisory Committee for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)
Ad Hoc Committee on Extra-Budgetary Funds
Special Committee on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States
Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction
Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa

4. Canada contributes personnel to the following peacekeeping operations established by the Security Council:

UNMOGIP - United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNTSO - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
UNFICYP - United Nations Force in Cyprus
UNEF - United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East
UNDOF - United Nations Desengagement Force in the Middle East

5. Until the end of 1977, Canada was a member of ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) and is presently a member of the following ECOSOC bodies:

A. Functional Commissions

Statistical Commission
Commission on Human Rights
Commission on Trans-National Corporations

B. Regional Commissions

ECLA - Economic Commission for Latin America
ECE - Economic Commission for Europe

C. Standing Committee

Advisory Committee on Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST)
Member of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program for Refugees
The Committee on Science and Technology for Development
The Committee on Review and Appraisal
The Committee on Natural Resources
The Human Rights Committee

6. Canada is a member of the following special bodies:

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund (member of the Executive Board)
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (member of the Executive Committee)
UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP - United Nations Development Program
UNEP - United Nations Environment Program (member of Governing Council)

7. Canada is a member of the following Specialized Agencies and intergovernmental organizations:

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Association (member of Board of Governors)
GATT - General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade
Asian Development Bank (non-regional member)
Inter-American Development Bank
ILO - International Labour Organization (member of the Governing Body)
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization (member of the Council)
United Nations FAO/World Food Program - WFP (member of the Council)
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (member of the Executive Board)
WHO - World Health Organization (member of the Executive Board)
IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (member of the Board of Governors)
IFC - International Finance Corporation (member of the Board of Governors)
IDA - International Development Association (member of the Board of Governors)
IMF - International Monetary Fund (member of the Board of Governors)
ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization (member of the Council)
UPU - Universal Postal Union (member of Executive Council)
ITU - International Telecommunication Union (member of Administrative Council)
WMO - World Meteorological Organization (member of Administrative Council)
IMCO - Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization

ACRONYMS AND SHORT FORMS

ACAST	- Advisory Committee on Application of Science and Technology to Development
CCD	- Conference of the Committee on Disarmament
DBS	- Direct Broadcasting by Satellite
ECE	- Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	- Economic Commission for Latin America
ECOSOC	- Economic and Social Council
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
GATT	- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	- International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	- International Civil Aviation Organization
ICJ	- International Court of Justice
IDA	- International Development Association
IFC	- International Finance Corporation
ILO	- International Labour Organization
IMCO	- Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	- International Monetary Fund
ITU	- International Telecommunication Union
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	- Organization of American States
OAU	- Organization of African Unity
PLO	- Palestine Liberation Organization
SALT	- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SSEA	- Secretary of State for External Affairs
SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
SWAPO	- South West Africa People's Organization
UNAC	- UN Association in Canada
UNCTAD	- UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDOF	- UN Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	- UN Development Program
UNEF	- UN Emergency Force
UNEP	- UN Environmental Program
UNESCO	- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNETPSA	- UN Educational and Training Program for South Africa
UNFICYP	- UN Force in Cyprus
UNFPA	- UN Fund for Population Activities
UNGA	- UN General Assembly
UNHCR	- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	- UN Children' Fund
UNIDO	- UN Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	- UN Interim Force in Lebanon
UNITAR	- UN Institute for Training and Research
UNMOGIP	- UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNP	- Bureau of UN Affairs, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa
UNRWA	- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCEAR	- UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
UNTAG	- UN Transition Assistance Group
UNTSO	- UN Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine
UPU	- Universal Postal Union
WEOG	- Western European and Others Group
WFP	- World Food Program
WHO	- World Health Organization
WIPO	- World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	- World Meteorological Organization

- UNRWA - Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient
- UNSCLEAR - Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnements ionisants
- UIT - Union internationale des télécommunications
- UPU - Union postale universelle
- WEOG - Groupe des pays de l'Europe de l'Ouest et les autres

SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

ACAST	- Comité consultatif sur l'application de la science et de la technique au développement
AID	- Association internationale de développement
AIEA	- Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
ACNU	- Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies
BIRD	- Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement
CCD	- Conférence de la Commission du désarmement
CEE	- Communauté économique européenne
CEPAL	- Cour internationale de Justice
CIJ	- Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement
ECOSOC	- Conseil économique et social
FAO	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
FISE	- Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF)
FINUL	- Force intermédiaire des Nations Unies au Liban
FMI	- Fonds monétaire international
FNUAP	- Fonds des Nations Unies pour les activités en matière de population
FNUOD	- Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le dégagement
FUNU	- Force d'urgence des Nations Unies
GATT	- Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce
OACI	- Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale
OEA	- Organisation des États américains
OIT	- Organisation internationale du travail
OLP	- Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine
OMCI	- Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime
OMM	- Organisation météorologique mondiale
OMPI	- Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle
OMS	- Organisation mondiale de la santé
ONG	- Organisation non gouvernementale
ONU	- Organisation des Nations Unies
ONUDI	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel
ONUST	- Organisation des Nations Unies chargée de la surveillance de la trêve
OUA	- Organisation de l'unité africaine
PAM	- Programme alimentaire mondial
PNUD	- Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement
PNUF	- Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement
RDS	- Radiodiffusion directe par satellite
SFI	- Société financière internationale
SALT	- Les pourparlers sur la limitation des armements stratégiques
SEAE	- Le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures
SWAPO	- Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain
UNESCO	- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
UNETPSA	- Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe
UNFICYP	- Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre
UNHCR	- Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés
UNITAR	- Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche
UNMOGIP	- Groupe d'observateurs militaires des Nations Unies pour l'Inde et le Pakistan
UNP	- Bureau des Affaires des Nations Unies, ministère des Affaires extérieures, Ottawa

OMS - Organisation mondiale de la santé (membre du conseil d'administration)

BIRD - Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (membre du conseil des gouverneurs)

SFI - Société financière internationale (membre du conseil des gouverneurs)

AID - Association internationale de développement (membre du conseil des gouverneurs)

FMI - Fonds monétaire international (membre du conseil des gouverneurs)

OACI - Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (membre du conseil)

UPU - Union postale universelle (membre du conseil d'administration)

UIT - Union internationale des télécommunications (membre du conseil d'administration)

OMM - Organisation météorologique mondiale (membre du conseil d'administration)

OMCI - Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime

OMPI - Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle

4. Le Canada fournit une partie de l'effectif nécessaire aux opérations suivantes de maintien de la paix, mises sur pied par le Conseil de sécurité:

- UNMOGIP - Groupe d'observateurs militaires des Nations Unies pour l'Inde et le Pakistan
- ONUST - Organisme des Nations Unies chargé de la surveillance de la trêve en Palestine
- UNFICYP - Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre
- FUNU - Force d'urgence des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix au Moyen Orient
- FNUOD - Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le dégellement

5. Le Canada était membre du Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC) jusqu'à la fin de 1977; il est représenté dans les organes suivants de cet organisme:

- A. Commissions techniques
- Commission de statistiques
- Commission des droits de l'homme
- Commission sur les sociétés multinationales
- B. Commissions régionales
- Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine (CEPAL)
- Commission économique pour l'Europe (CEE)
- C. Comités permanents

- Comité exécutif du Programme du haut commissaire pour les réfugiés
- Comité de la science et de la technique pour le développement
- Comité de l'examen et de l'évaluation
- Comité des ressources naturelles
- Comité des droits de l'homme

6. Le Canada est membre des organes spéciaux suivants:

- UNICEF - Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (membre du conseil d'administration)
- UNHCR - Haut commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés
- CNUCED - Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement
- PNUD - Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement
- PNUF - Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (membre du conseil d'administration)

7. Le Canada est membre des institutions spécialisées et des organisations intergouvernementales suivantes:

- AIEA - Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (membre du conseil des gouverneurs)
- GATT - Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce
- BASD - Banque asiatique de développement (membre non régional)
- BID - Banque interaméricaine de développement
- OIT - Organisation internationale du travail (membre du conseil d'administration)
- FAO - Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (membre du conseil)
- PAM - Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (membre du conseil)
- UNESCO - Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

PARTICIPATION DU CANADA AUX ORGANISMES DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

1. Le 1er janvier 1977, le Canada est devenu membre du Conseil de sécurité pour une période de deux ans se terminant le 31 décembre 1978. Il s'agit de son quatrième mandat. De ce fait, le Canada était membre des organismes du Conseil de sécurité suivants:

Comité d'experts sur le Règlement intérieur
Comité d'admission de nouveaux membres
Comité sur la Rhodésie du Sud

2. En tant que membre des Nations Unies, le Canada est représenté à chaque session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ainsi qu'après de chacune des sept grandes commissions:

Première Commission (questions politiques et de sécurité)
Commission politique spéciale (questions politiques qui ne sont pas examinées par la Première Commission)
Deuxième Commission (questions économiques et financières)
Troisième Commission (questions sociales, humanitaires et culturelles)
Quatrième Commission (questions se rapportant aux territoires sous tutelle et aux territoires non autonomes)
Cinquième Commission (questions administratives et budgétaires)
Sixième Commission (questions juridiques)

3. Le Canada participe aussi aux travaux des organismes subsidiaires ou spéciaux suivants de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies:

Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix (Comité des 33)
Comité spécial chargé d'étudier la situation financière des Nations Unies

Comité des relations avec le pays hôte

Comité des commissaires aux comptes

Comité des contributions

Comité des mesures collectives

Comité des conférences

Commission du désarmement

Comité consultatif scientifique des Nations Unies

Comité scientifique des Nations Unies pour l'étude des effets des rayonnements ionisants

Comité consultatif pour le cimetière commémoratif des Nations Unies en Corée

Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique

Conférence du Comité du désarmement

Comité spécial des fonds extra-budgétaire

Comité spécial des principes du droit international touchant les relations amicales et la coopération entre États

Comité spécial pour la question de la définition de l'agression

Comité des utilisations pacifiques du fond des mers et des océans

au-delà des limites de la juridiction nationale

Comité consultatif du Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe

BUDGET ORDINAIRE DES NATIONS UNIES

La trente-deuxième session de l'Assemblée générale a voté des crédits budgétaires de 985,913,300 (\$EU) pour l'exercice financier biennal 1978-1979. La trente-troisième session a voté des crédits budgétaires supplémentaires qui a eu pour effet d'augmenter le budget biennal net par près de 39 pour cent par comparaison avec les dépenses nettes encourues pour l'exercice 1976-1977. C'était ainsi la première fois que le budget des Nations Unies excède un milliard de dollars. A l'occasion de ce vote, les pays dont la contribution compte pour environ 75 pour cent du budget onusien, y compris le Canada, se sont abstenus ou ont voté contre le projet de dépenses budgétaires supplémentaires.

CONTRIBUTIONS FINANCIÈRES DU CANADA À L'ENSEMBLE
DES ORGANISMES DES NATIONS UNIES - 1960 - 1979

Année financière (se termine le 31 mars)	Budget ordinaire de l'ONU (\$000 CDN)	Quote-part (pour cent)
1960	1,536	3.11
1961	1,860	3.11
1962	2,181	3.12
1963	2,356	3.12
1964	3,115	3.12
1965	2,774	3.17
1966	3,481	3.17
1967	3,588	3.17
1968	3,795	3.02
1969	4,049	3.02
1970	4,557	3.02
1971	4,891	3.08
1972	5,490	3.08
1973	5,770	3.08
1974	7,169	3.18
1975	8,838	3.18
1976	9,856	3.18
1977	9,593	2.96
1978	13,470	3.04
1979	17,171	3.04

En théorie, l'Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce (GATT) constitue un palier intermédiaire vers une organisation internationale commerciale plus complète. En pratique, toutefois, cette organisation existe depuis trente ans en tant qu'organe virtuellement autonome, administré par son propre secrétariat et régi par les parties contractantes de l'Accord, notamment par le Canada. Actuellement, 84 pays sont membres du GATT et les principales négociations commerciales multilatérales ont été conduites sous ses auspices. Le directeur général de l'Accord est M. Olivier Long (Suisse).

LE CANADA AU SYSTEME DES NATIONS UNIES POLITIQUES ET OBJECTIFS DU CANADA

Comme les activités des Nations Unies touchent plusieurs sinon tous les objectifs et politiques que le Canada s'est fixés à l'échelle nationale, ce dernier considère l'Organisation des Nations Unies comme un instrument important en ce qui concerne la réalisation de ces objectifs et politiques dans leur contexte international. Depuis la révision de sa politique étrangère, le Canada a surtout mis l'accent à l'ONU sur les thèmes suivants: croissance économique, justice sociale, qualité de la vie et paix et sécurité.

L'attitude du Canada se fonde sur le principe que sa participation active pourra aider les Nations Unies à devenir un instrument efficace de coopération internationale et sur la conviction qu'il importe d'appuyer l'Organisation de façon à ce qu'elle puisse mieux réaliser les objectifs de sa Charte.

Le Canada poursuit à l'ONU les objectifs suivants, dont on trouvera une description détaillée dans le document intitulé Politique étrangère au service des Canadiens: Nations Unies (publié en 1970):

- contribuer au développement économique et social
- s'efforcer de freiner la course aux armements
- contribuer à l'établissement et au maintien de la paix au sein des Nations Unies
- concilier les objectifs du Canada en Afrique australe
- collaborer à l'assainissement du milieu humain
- encourager la coopération dans l'usage pacifique du réseau de satellites internationaux
- développer la coopération internationale dans l'usage des fonds marins au delà des limites de la juridiction nationale
- promouvoir le respect des droits de l'homme, l'adhésion aux conventions des Nations Unies et leur observance
- contribuer au développement et à la codification du droit international
- exprimer la dualité linguistique du Canada aux Nations Unies
- participer au développement des institutions de l'ONU, lieu où s'harmonisent les politiques nationales.

Des progrès ont été réalisés dans la poursuite de ces objectifs depuis qu'ils ont été formulés, et les visées canadiennes ont été définies avec plus de clarté en ce qui a trait, par exemple, à la réalisation de l'égalité raciale en Afrique australe et aux négociations sur l'élaboration d'un nouveau droit de la mer.

La constitution de l'Agence internationale de l'Energie atomique est entrée en vigueur le 29 juillet 1957. Cette agence n'est pas une institution spécialisée de l'ONU mais plutôt une organisation intergouvernementale indépendante, sous l'égide des Nations Unies. Le but de cette agence, tel que défini par sa constitution, est d'accélérer et de renforcer les effets de l'emploi de l'énergie atomique sur le plan de la paix, de la santé et de la prospérité dans le monde. M. Sigvard Eklund (Suède) est le directeur général de l'AIEA.

AIEA

Labouisse, Henry R. (E-U)	Directeur général du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE/UNICEF)
Hartling, Poul (Danemark)	Haut Commissaire pour les réfugiés (HCR)
McElhinney, Thomas W. (E-U)	Commissaire général de l'Office de secours et de travaux pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient (UNRWA)
Morse, Bradford (E-U)	Administrateur des Programmes des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)
Nicol, Davidson (Sierra Leone)	Directeur général de l'Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche
Khane, Abderrahmane (Algérie)	Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI)
Tolba, Dr. Mostafa (Egypte)	Directeur général du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUÉ)
INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES, AIEA ET CATT	
Blanchard, Francis (France)	Directeur général de l'OIT
Saouma, Edouard (Liban)	Directeur général de la FAO
M'bow, Amadou M. (Sénégal)	Directeur général de l'UNESCO
McNamara Robert S. (E-U)	Président de la Banque mondiale (BRD, IDA, SFI)
Witteveen, H. Johannes (Pays-Bas)	Président du Conseil d'administration du FMI
Lambert, Yves (France)	Secrétaire général de l'OACI
Sobhi, Mohamed Ibrahim (Egypte)	Directeur général de l'UPU
Milli, Mohamed (Tunisie)	Secrétaire général de l'UIT
Davies, David (R-U)	Secrétaire général de l'OMM
Srivastava, C.P. (Inde)	Secrétaire générale de l'OMCI
Bogsch, Dr. Arpad (E-U)	Directeur général de l'OMPI

L'énergie atomique (AIEA). Viennent ensuite les élections des membres de divers conseils, comités et commissions de l'ONU.

Tous les autres points de l'ordre du jour ont trait à des questions déterminées. Certaines sont connues de longue date et sont reportées d'une session à l'autre. D'autres traduisent le souci qu'ont les Nations Unies d'aborder les problèmes de l'heure et sont ajoutées à l'ordre du jour à la demande du secrétaire général, d'un des organes principaux des Nations Unies ou d'un Etat membre.

LE CONSEIL DE SECURITE

Le Conseil de sécurité est le principal organe de l'ONU chargé du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité. Il est composé de quinze membres, dont cinq sont permanents et jouissent chacun d'un droit de veto. Les dix membres non permanents sont élus pour une période de deux ans par l'Assemblée générale qui, pour ce faire, "tient spécialement compte, en premier lieu, de la contribution des Membres de l'Organisation au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales et aux autres fins de l'Organisation, et aussi d'une répartition géographique équitable" (Charte des Nations Unies). Pour sa part, le Canada a fait partie du Conseil de sécurité en 1948 et 1949, en 1958 et 1959, et en 1967 et 1968. Lors de la 31^e session de l'Assemblée générale, il a été réélu pour les années 1977 et 1978. La composition du Conseil de sécurité pour 1978 était la suivante:

1978

Membres permanents

Chine
Etats-Unis
France
Royaume-Uni
URSS

Afrique

Gabon
Maurice
Nigeria

Asie

Inde
Koweït

Amérique latine

Bolivie
Venezuela

Europe occidentale

Canada
République fédérale d'Allemagne

Europe orientale

Tchécoslovaquie

LES HAUTS FONCTIONNAIRES DES ORGANISMES SPECIAUX

ET DES INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES

Secrétaire général de l'ONU

Waldheim, Kurt (Autriche)
Hauts fonctionnaires des organismes spéciaux des Nations Unies de rang équivalent

Corea, Gamani (Sri Lanka)

Secrétaire général de la Conférence sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED)

Le vote sur des questions importantes (recommandations sur la paix et la sécurité, élection de membres des organismes, admission, suspension et expulsion des membres, questions de tutelle et questions budgétaires) se fait à la majorité des deux tiers des membres présents et votants. Le vote sur les autres questions se fait à la majorité simple des voix. Chaque membre de l'Assemblée générale dispose d'une voix.

Pour déterminer les majorités des deux-tiers ou les majorités simples, seuls les "oui" et les "non" sont comptés, non les abstentions. Toutefois, dans la pratique des Nations Unies, l'abstention est devenue un moyen respecté et largement utilisé d'indiquer la position d'un gouvernement sur les questions à l'égard desquelles divers éléments contradictoires entrent en jeu et dans les cas où un simple vote par "oui" ou par "non" ne serait pas une expression exacte de son attitude. Il y a très souvent des explications de vote, avant ou après la mise aux voix.

LA SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

L'Assemblée générale se réunit en session ordinaire, chaque année, le troisième mardi de septembre. Cette session dure environ trois mois. Des sessions extraordinaires peuvent également être convoquées à la demande du Conseil de sécurité, d'une majorité des membres des Nations Unies, ou d'un membre (si la majorité des membres l'approuve). Une session extraordinaire d'urgence peut aussi être convoquée dans un délai de vingt-quatre heures après réception d'une demande à cet effet émanant soit du Conseil de sécurité à la suite d'un vote affirmatif de neuf membres de ce Conseil, soit de la majorité des membres des Nations Unies ou d'un membre (si la majorité

l'approuve).

Les sessions sont ouvertes par le président de la session antérieure (ou par le président de la délégation de son pays) et la première tâche à l'ordre du jour, après la nomination du Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, est l'élection d'un nouveau président pour les douze mois à venir. Une tradition bien établie veut que le président ne soit pas le représentant d'une grande puissance. Il est élu par scrutin secret, mais normalement des arrangements privés sont faits avant l'ouverture de la session pour qu'on trouve un candidat qui puisse obtenir une forte majorité. Les pouvoirs du président sont limités, mais un haut fonctionnaire compétent peut faire beaucoup pour son influence personnelle pour aplanir les difficultés d'une session et pour sauvegarder les intérêts de l'Organisation en dépit des pressions des divers groupes d'Etats. A côté du nouveau président sont assis le secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le sous-secrétaire général aux affaires de l'Assemblée qui, en qualité de secrétaire de l'Assemblée générale, joue un rôle analogue à celui du greffier du parlement par rapport à l'orateur de la Chambre des communes.

Après l'élection des vice-présidents et des présidents de Commissions (points suivants de l'ordre du jour), le secrétaire général signale à l'Assemblée générale "toutes questions relatives au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales dont le Conseil de sécurité a été saisi". Une fois l'ordre du jour adopté, il y a une discussion générale qui dure souvent plus de trois semaines; à cette occasion, presque tous les Etats membres présentent les principaux objectifs de la politique de leurs gouvernements sous la forme d'un tour d'horizon des grandes affaires mondiales. La discussion générale est suivie de la présentation des rapports du secrétaire général, du Conseil de sécurité, du Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC), du Conseil de tutelle, de la Cour internationale de Justice (CIJ) et de l'Agence internationale de

Les Grandes Commissions sont les suivantes:

LA PREMIERE COMMISSION - questions politiques et de sécurité (notamment le désarmement)

LA COMMISSION POLITIQUE SPECIALE - questions politiques non examinées par la Première Commission

LA DEUXIEME COMMISSION - questions économiques et financières

LA TROISIEME COMMISSION - questions sociales, humanitaires et culturelles

LA QUATRIEME COMMISSION - Commission de tutelle (y compris les territoires non autonomes)

LA CINQUIEME COMMISSION - questions administratives et budgétaires

LA SIXIEME COMMISSION - questions juridiques

L'Assemblée, en règle générale, renvoie toutes les questions inscrites à son ordre du jour à l'une des grandes commissions, à un comité mixte ou à un comité spécial établi pour la circonstance. Ces organes soumettent leurs propositions à l'approbation de l'Assemblée réunie en séance plénière. Les questions dont l'étude n'a pas été confiée à l'une des grandes commissions sont traitées par l'Assemblée elle-même en séance plénière.

AUTRES ORGANES

En plus des grandes commissions, différents organes aident l'Assemblée générale dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche:

1) Le Bureau, qui se compose du président, des dix-sept vice-présidents de l'Assemblée, et des présidents des sept grandes commissions, est un organe de direction qui se réunit pendant la première semaine de la session pour recommander l'inscription de points à l'ordre du jour, l'attribution de points de l'ordre du jour aux commissions et pour surveiller le bon fonctionnement du travail de l'Assemblée;

2) Le Comité de vérification des pouvoirs, nommé par le président à chaque session, vérifie les pouvoirs des représentants (l'URSS et les Etats-Unis sont traditionnellement membres du Comité);

3) Le Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires, qui comprend des experts financiers, est chargé de l'examen du budget des Nations Unies;

4) Le Comité des contributions conseille l'Assemblée générale au sujet de la répartition des dépenses de l'Organisation parmi les membres;

5) Le Comité des conférences conseille l'Assemblée générale quant au programme des conférences et, entre les sessions, agit au nom de celle-ci.

Des organes subsidiaires et spéciaux sont également constitués s'il y a lieu.

L'Assemblée générale est dirigée par le président, qui est élu au début de chaque session et qui assume ses fonctions jusqu'à la clôture. Les pouvoirs généraux du président consistent à prononcer l'ouverture et la clôture de chaque séance plénière de la session, à diriger les discussions en séance plénière, à assurer l'application du règlement, à donner la parole, à mettre les questions aux voix et à proclamer les décisions. Lors de l'élection du président, on tient compte du principe voulant que des représentants des diverses régions doivent occuper ce poste à tour de rôle.

LES VICE-PRÉSIDENTS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

L'Assemblée générale élit aussi dix-sept vice-présidents. Si le président est obligé de s'absenter pendant une séance ou une partie de séance, il charge un des vice-présidents de le remplacer. En 1963, l'Assemblée générale a décidé que les vice-présidents seraient élus suivant la répartition suivante:

- a) sept du groupe afro-asiatique
- b) un du groupe de l'Europe orientale
- c) trois du groupe de l'Amérique latine
- d) deux du groupe de l'Europe occidentale et des autres pays (qui comprennent le Canada)
- e) cinq des États qui sont membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité.

L'élection du président a pour effet de réduire d'une personne le nombre des vice-présidents de la région à laquelle il appartient.

LES GRANDES COMMISSIONS

L'Assemblée générale accomplit la plus grande partie de son travail par l'intermédiaire de sept grandes commissions auprès desquelles tous les membres ont le droit d'être représentés. Chaque membre peut être représenté seulement par une personne à chacune des grandes commissions, mais il peut aussi affecter des conseillers et des experts à ces commissions. Sur désignation du président de la délégation intéressée, ces conseillers et ces experts peuvent agir en qualité de membres des commissions. Le quorum est constitué par un quart des membres de la commission, mais la présence de la majorité des membres est requise pour la mise aux voix d'une question. Les décisions sont prises à la majorité des voix. (Voir le Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale, article 98-134.)

Les sept présidents des grandes commissions sont élus en respectant la répartition géographique suivante:

- a) trois du groupe afro-asiatique
- b) un du groupe de l'Europe orientale
- c) un du groupe de l'Amérique latine
- d) un du groupe de l'Europe occidentale et des autres pays
- e) un de l'un des deux groupes précédents, alternativement, chaque année.

SES FONCTIONS

L'Assemblée générale est l'organe plénier des Nations Unies et groupe les représentants de tous les Etats membres. Ses fonctions officielles sont les suivantes :

- examiner les principes de la coopération internationale pour le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité, y compris les principes du désarmement et du contrôle des armements et faire des recommandations à ce sujet;
- discuter tout problème qui touche à la paix et à la sécurité et, sauf dans les cas où un différend ou une situation est à l'étude au Conseil de sécurité, faire des recommandations à cet égard;
- discuter toute question qui entre dans le cadre de l'application de la Charte ou qui touche aux pouvoirs et fonctions de tout organe des Nations Unies et, sauf dans les cas susmentionnés, faire des recommandations sur la question;
- engager des études et faire des recommandations visant à promouvoir la coopération internationale, le développement du droit international et sa codification, la réalisation des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous et la collaboration internationale dans les domaines économique, social, culturel, éducatif et sanitaire;
- recevoir et examiner les rapports du Conseil de sécurité et des autres organes des Nations Unies;
- faire des recommandations pour le règlement pacifique de toutes situations qui pourraient mettre en danger les relations amicales entre nations, quelle que soit l'origine de ces situations;
- surveiller, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil de sécurité, l'exécution des accords de tutelle pour toutes les régions qui ne sont pas désignées comme stratégiques;
- élire les dix membres non permanents du Conseil de sécurité et les membres du Conseil de tutelle; prendre part avec le Conseil de tutelle à l'élection des Juges de la Cour internationale de Justice; et, sur la recommandation du Conseil de sécurité, nommer le secrétaire général;
- élire les cinquante-quatre membres du Conseil économique et social.



LE SYSTÈME DES NATIONS UNIES

● Principaux organes des Nations Unies

○ Institutions spécialisées et autres organisations autonomes faisant partie du système

Grandes commissions

Comités permanents et comités de procédure

Autres organes subsidiaires de l'Assemblée générale

Comité d'état-major

Commission du désarmement

CONSEIL DE TUTELLE

CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

SECRÉTARIAT

Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient **UNRWA**

Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement **CNUCED**

Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance **FISE**

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés **HCR**

Programme alimentaire mondial **ONU/FAO**

Institut de formation et de recherche des Nations Unies **UNITAR**

Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement **PNUD**

Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel **ONUDI**

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement **PNUE**

Université des Nations Unies **UNU**

Fonds spécial des Nations Unies

Conseil mondial de l'alimentation

AIEA Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

GATT Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce

OIT Organisation internationale du Travail

FAO Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

UNESCO Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

OMS Organisation mondiale de la santé

IDA Association internationale pour le développement

BIRD Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement

SFI Société financière internationale

FMI Fonds monétaire international

OACI Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale

UPU Union postale universelle

UIT Union internationale des télécommunications

OMM Organisation météorologique mondiale

OMCI Organisation intergouvernementale consultative de la navigation maritime

OMPI Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle

LE GROUPE DES 77

Le Groupe des 77, composé à l'origine des 77 membres qui avaient signé la Déclaration commune des pays en voie de développement à la fin de la Première Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED) tenue à Genève en 1964, compte maintenant 117 membres. La Tunisie, qui préside au Groupe des 77 depuis octobre 1978, terminera son mandat en octobre 1979. La composition du Groupe des 77 est la suivante: 49 membres de l'Afrique: Algérie*, Angola, Bénin, Botswana, Burundi*, Cameroun*, Cap-Vert, Comores, Congo*, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypte*, Empire centrafricain*, Ethiopie*, Gabon*, Gambie*, Ghana*, Guinée*, Guinée-Bissau*, Guinée équatoriale, Haute-Volta*, Kenya*, Lesotho, Libéria*, Libye*, Madagascar*, Malawi, Mali*, Mauritanie*, Maurice, Maroc, Mozambique, Niger*, Nigéria*, Rwanda*, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Sénégal*, Seychelles, Sierra Leone*, Somalie*, Soudan*, Soudan*, Tanzanie*, Tchad*, Tunisie*, Ouganda*, Zaïre*, Zambie; 37 membres de l'Asie: Afghanistan*, Arabie Saoudite*, Bahreïn, Bangladesh, Bhoutan, Birmanie*, Kampuchea démocratique, Corée*, Corée (RPD), Fidji, Inde*, Indonésie*, Iran*, Irak*, Jordanie*, Koweït*, Laos*, Liban*, Malaisie*, Maldives, Népal*, Oman, Pakistan*, Organisation de libération de la Palestine, Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, Philippines*, Qatar, Singapour, Viet Nam*, Samoa, Îles Salomon, Sri Lanka*, Syrie*, Thaïlande*, Emirats arabes unis, Yémen*, Yémen (RPD); 27 membres de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes: Argentine*, Bahamas, Barbade, Bolivie*, Brésil*, Chili*, Colombie*, Costa Rica*, Cuba, Equateur*, El Salvador*, Grenade, Guatemala*, Guyane, Haïti*, Honduras*, Jamaïque*, Mexique*, Nicaragua*, Panama*, Paraguay*, Pérou*, République Dominicaine, Surinam, Trinité et Tobago*, Uruguay*, Venezuela* Roumanie et Yougoslavie*.

* membres originaires

Les 85 pays qui, en sus de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine (OLP), ont assisté à la Conférence des ministres des Affaires étrangères des pays non-alignés tenue à Belgrade du 25 au 30 juillet 1978, comme membres de plein droit, étaient les suivants: Afghanistan, Algérie, Angola, Arabie Saoudite, Argentine, Bahreïn, Bangladesh, Bénin, Bhoutan, Birmanie, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodge, Cameroun, Cap-Vert, Chypre, Congo, Corée (RPD), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypte, Emirats arabes unis, Empire centrafricain, Ethiopie, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Guinée équatoriale, Guyane, Inde, Indonésie, Irak, Haute-Volta, Jamaïque, Jordanie, Kenya, Koweït, Laos, Lesotho, Liban, Libéria, Libye, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaisie, Maldives, Mali, Malte, Maroc, Mauritanie, Maurice, Mozambique, Népal, Niger, Nigéria, Oman, Ouganda, Panama, Pérou, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Sénégal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapour, Somalie, Souaziland, Soudan, Sri Lanka, Syrie, Tanzanie, Tchad, Trinité et Tobago, Tunisie, Viet Nam, Yémen (RDP), Yémen (RA), Yougoslavie, Zaïre et Zambie. Bélize a également assisté à cette conférence en vertu d'un statut particulier.

En outre, dix Etats étaient présents en tant qu'observateurs: Barbade, Bolivie, Brésil, Colombie, Equateur, El Salvador, Grenade, Mexique, Uruguay, Venezuela. Les pays invités étaient: Pakistan, San Marino, Autriche, Finlande, Philippines, Portugal, Roumanie, Suède et Suisse. Certains mouvements de libération et certaines organisations internationales (tous comme observateurs) étaient également représentés dont les deux ailes du Front patriotique du Zimbabwe - i.e. l'Union nationale africaine pour le Zimbabwe (ZANU) et l'Union populaire africaine pour le Zimbabwe (ZAPU) - ainsi que la SWAPO (l'Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain), le Congrès national africain de l'Afrique du Sud, le Premier Congrès panafricain de l'Azanie (l'Afrique du Sud), la Ligue arabe, la Conférence islamique, l'Organisation de l'unité africaine et les Nations Unies.

LE COMMONWEALTH

Le Commonwealth compte maintenant 39 membres: Australie (1901)*, Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbade (1966), Botswana (1966), Canada (1867), Chypre (1961), Dominique, Fidji (1970), Gambie (1965), Ghana (1957), Grande-Bretagne, Grenade (1974), Guyane (1966), Iles Salomon (1978), Inde (1947), Jamaïque (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malaisie (1964), Malte (1964), Maurice (1968), Nauru (1968)***, Nigéria (1960), Nouvelle-Zélande (1907), Ouganda (1962), Papouasie - Nouvelle-Guinée (1975), Samoa occidentales (1970), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapour (1965), Souaziland (1968), Sri Lanka (1948), Tuvalu (1978), Tanzanie (1961), Togo (1970), Trinité et Tobago (1962), Zambie (1964).

* Date d'admission

** Nauru possède le statut de membre-associé. Il a le droit de participer à toutes les réunions fonctionnelles et activités du Commonwealth mais non le droit d'assister aux réunions des chefs de gouvernement du Commonwealth.

AFRIQUE ET ASIE

AFRIQUE

Afrique du Sud

Algérie

Angola

Bénin

Botswana

Burundi

Cameroon

Cap-Vert

Comores

Congo

Côte d'Ivoire

Djibouti

Egypte

Empire centrafricain

Ethiopie

Gabon

Gambie

Ghana

Guinée

Guinée-Bissau

Guinée équatoriale

Haute-Volta

Kenya

Lesotho

Libéria

Libye

Madagascar

Malawi

Mali

Maroc

Maurice

Mauritanie

Mozambique

Niger

Nigéria

Ouganda

Rwanda

Sao Tomé-et-Principe

Sénégal

Seychelles

Sierra Leone

Somalie

Soudan

Tanzanie

Tchad

Togo

Tunisie

Zaire

Zambie

Afghanistan

Arabie Saoudite

Bahreïn

Bangladesh

Bhoutan

Birmanie

Chypre

Emirats arabes unis

Fidji

Iles Salomon

Inde

Indonésie

Irak

Iran

AMERIQUE LATINE

Argentine

Bahamas

Barbade

Bolivie

Bresil

Chili

Colombie

Costa Rica

Cuba

Dominique

El Salvador

Equateur

Grenade

Guatemala

Guayane

Haiti

Honduras

Jamaïque

Mexique

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Pérou

République

Dominicaine

Surinam

Trinité et Tobago

Uruguay

Venezuela

Oman

Népal

Mongolie

Maldives

Malaisie

Liban

Laos

Koweït

Kampuchea démocratique

Jordanie

Japon

Israël

Iran

Yémen

Viet Nam

Thaïlande

Syrie

Sri Lanka

Singapour

Samoa

République démocratique du Yémen

République démocratique du Yémen

Qatar

Philippines

Guinée

Papouasie - Nouvelle

Pakistan

Le statut d'observateur n'est pas prévu dans la Charte des Nations Unies. Au cours des années, cependant, le Secrétaire général l'a accordé à des Etats non membres qui entretenaient quelque rapport avec l'Organisation, par exemple à titre de membre d'une institution spécialisée. Cinq pays ont actuellement une mission d'observation à New York: la Suisse, Monaco, le Saint-Siège, la République de Corée et la République populaire démocratique de Corée.

Par des résolutions spéciales, l'Assemblée générale a également accordé le statut d'observateur à six associations de pays: l'OEA, la Ligue arabe, l'OUA, la CEE, le COMECON et la Conférence islamique. En 1974, elle a fait de même pour l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine. A la trente-et-unième session, elle a acquisé à la demande du Secrétaire du Commonwealth, qui était coparrainée par le Canada. Le statut d'observateur a également été accordé à la SWAPO (l'Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain).

LES REGROUPEMENTS REGIONAUX D'ETATS AU SEIN DES NATIONS UNIES

LES MEMBRES PERMANENTS DU CONSEIL DE SECURITE

Chine	France	URSS
Etats-Unis	Royaume-Uni	

EUROPE DE L'OUEST ET LES AUTRES **

Australie	Islande	Portugal
Autriche	Irlande	République fédérale
Belgique	Italie	d'Allemagne
Canada	Luxembourg	Suède
Danemark	Malte	Turquie
Espagne	Nouvelle-Zélande	
Finlande	Norvège	
Grèce	Pays-Bas	

EUROPE DE L'EST

Albanie	République démocrate	Roumanie
Bulgarie	ti que allemande	Tchécoslovaquie
Hongrie	RSS de Biélorussie	Yugoslavie
Pologne	RSS d'Ukraine	

* Ces regroupements officiels ont été établis pour répondre aux résolutions 1990 et 1991 de la 18e session de l'Assemblée générale.

** La France et le Royaume-Uni sont membres du "groupe des pays de l'Europe de l'Ouest", les Etats-Unis s'abstiennent. Cependant, ceux-ci et le Japon assistent à certaines réunions du groupe, en particulier aux réunions régionales des Deuxième et Cinquième Commissions. Lors de la tenue d'élection aux organes auxiliaires (économiques et sociaux surtout), les observateurs sont considérés comme faisant partie du groupe et occupent les sièges qui leur sont attribués.

Date	d'admission
Libye	14/12/55
* Luxembourg	20/09/60
Madagascar	17/09/57
Malaisie	1/12/64
Malawi	21/09/65
Maldives	28/09/60
Mali	1/12/64
Malte	12/11/56
Maroc	24/04/68
Maurice	27/10/61
* Mauritanie	27/10/61
Mexique	27/10/61
Mongolie	12/09/75
Mozambique	14/12/55
Népal	20/09/60
* Nicaragua	7/10/60
Niger	
Nigéria	
* Norvège	
* Nouvelle-Zélande	
Oman	
Ouganda	7/10/71
Pakistan	25/10/62
* Panama	30/09/60
Papouasie -	10/10/75
Nouvelle-Guinée	
* Paraguay	
* Pays-Bas	
* Pérou	
* Philippines	
* Pologne	
Portugal	14/12/55
Qatar	21/09/71
République d'Allemagne	18/09/73
* République Dominicaine	
* République fédérale d'Allemagne	18/09/73
* République socialiste de Biélorussie	
* République socialiste d'Ukraine	
* Roumanie	14/12/55
* Royaume-Uni	
Rwanda	18/09/62
Samoa	15/12/76
Sao Tomé-et-Principe	16/09/75
Sénégal	28/09/60
Seychelles	21/09/76
Sierra Leone	27/09/61
Singapour	21/09/65
Somalie	20/09/60
Souaziland	24/09/68
Soudan	12/11/56
Sri Lanka	14/12/55
Suède	19/11/46
Surinam	4/12/75
* Syrie	
Tanzanie	14/12/61
Tchad	20/09/60
* Tchécoslavaquie	
Thaïlande	16/12/46
Togo	20/09/60
Trinité et Tobago	18/09/62
Tunisie	12/11/56
* Turquie	
* URSS	
* Uruguay	
* Venezuela	
Viet Nam	20/09/77
Yémen	30/09/47
Yémen démocratique	14/12/67
* Yougoslavie	
Zaire	20/09/60
Zambie	1/12/64

Date
d'admission

L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

LES ETATS MEMBRES

L'Assemblée générale est composée des représentants des 151 Etats membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, chacun ayant droit à cinq représentants.

Date	d'admission		Date	d'admission
		Afghanistan	19/11/46	* Egateur
		Afrique du Sud	14/12/55	* Espagne
		Albanie	14/12/55	* Etats-Unis d'Amérique
		Algérie	8/10/62	* Ethiopie
		Angola	1/12/76	* Fidji
		Arabie Saoudite		* Finlande
		Argentine		* France
		Australie	20/09/60	Gabon
		Autriche	14/12/55	Gambie
		Bahamas	18/09/73	Ghana
		Bahrein	21/09/71	* Grèce
		Bangladesh	17/09/74	Grenade
		Barbade	9/12/66	* Guatemala
		Belgique	20/09/60	Guinée
		Bénin	20/09/60	Guinée-Bissau
		Bhoutan	21/09/71	Guinée équatoriale
		Birmanie	19/04/48	Guyane
		Bolivie	17/10/66	* Haïti
		Botswana	14/12/55	Haute-Volta
		Bresil	17/10/66	* Honduras
		Bulgarie	14/12/55	Hongrie
		Burundi	18/09/62	Iles Salomon
		Cameroon	20/09/60	* Inde
		Canada	16/09/75	* Indonésie
		Cap-Vert		* Irak
		Chili		* Iran
		Chine	20/09/60	Irlande
		Chypre	20/09/60	Islande
		* Colombie	12/11/75	Israël
		Comores	20/09/60	Italie
		Congo	20/09/60	Jamaïque
		* Costa Rica	20/09/60	Japon
		Côte d'Ivoire	20/09/60	Jordanie
		Cuba		Kampuchea
		* Danemark	20/09/77	démocratique
		Djibouti	18/12/78	Kenya
		Dominique		Koweït
		* Egypte	14/12/55	Laos
		* El Salvador	17/10/66	Lesotho
		Emirats arabes unis	9/12/71	* Liban
		Empire centrafricain	20/09/60	* Libéria

* Membres originaires, c'est-à-dire les Etats qui ont participé à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'organisation internationale, tenue à San Francisco en 1945 ou qui avaient signé la "Déclaration des Nations Unies" du 1er janvier 1942 et qui ont signé et ratifié la Charte, le 26 juin 1945.

DELEGATION DU CANADA A L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

"La délégation d'un membre comprend cinq représentants et cinq suppléants au plus, et autant de conseillers, de conseillers techniques, d'experts et de personnes de catégorie analogue qu'elle juge nécessaire". (Article 25 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale).

"Un représentant suppléant peut agir en qualité de représentant sur désignation du chef de la délégation intéressée". (Article 26 du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale.)

Dans la pratique, on ne fait aucune distinction entre un délégué et un délégué suppléant (représentant). La délégation du Canada à toute session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies est nommée par le Cabinet sur la recommandation du secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures. La délégation comprend habituellement dix membres: cinq représentants et cinq représentants suppléants. Le président de la délégation est habituellement le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures et le vice-président, le représentant permanent du Canada auprès des Nations Unies. Les autres membres de la délégation se voient confier des responsabilités à l'égard de l'une ou l'autre des sept grandes commissions. Invariablement, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures retourne à Ottawa au cours de la session pour des périodes assez longues; en son absence, la direction de la délégation incombe au vice-président.

En plus des délégués eux-mêmes, on nomme un certain nombre de conseillers, au moins un pour chacune des grandes commissions. La Mission permanente à New York et le Bureau des affaires des Nations Unies à Ottawa fournissent le noyau des conseillers, mais d'autres missions, d'autres directions à Ottawa et d'autres ministères du Gouvernement envoient aussi, souvent pour de courtes périodes des agents chargés de questions précises inscrites à l'ordre du jour.

OBSERVATEURS AU SEIN DE LA DELEGATION DU CANADA

Depuis un certain nombre d'années, le gouvernement du Canada désigne à titre d'observateurs parlementaires des représentants des divers partis politiques fédéraux. Ces observateurs qui accompagnent la délégation du Canada à l'Assemblée générale sont choisis au Sénat et à la Chambre des communes en nombre relativement proportionnel au nombre de sièges détenus par chaque parti. A l'occasion, des Canadiens s'intéressant, de par leur profession, aux affaires des Nations Unies ont aussi été nommés observateurs à divers titres.

Une conscience accrue des possibilités et des limites de l'Organisation des Nations Unies est susceptible d'améliorer l'aptitude de chacun à percevoir et à évaluer les solutions possibles aux problèmes internationaux. De plus, si les problèmes étudiés aux Nations Unies ne sont pas, en général, étrangers aux parlementaires, il n'en est pas moins vrai que, dans leur rôle d'observateur, ceux-ci pourront acquérir une connaissance plus approfondie des questions qui préoccupent la communauté mondiale et des répercussions qu'elles peuvent avoir sur le Canada.

INSTRUMENTS DE LA PARTICIPATION OFFICIELLE DU CANADA À L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

BUREAU DES AFFAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES, OTTAWA

Le Bureau des Affaires des Nations Unies (UNP) est chargé principalement de la politique du Canada à l'égard des activités de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de ses institutions spécialisées. L'un des principes fondamentaux de la politique canadienne est de continuer activement à renforcer l'Organisation des Nations Unies en tant qu'instrument efficace de coopération internationale et notamment de façon à ce que les Nations Unies puissent mieux réaliser les objectifs de la Charte. À ces fins, le Bureau poursuit sa tâche en étroite collaboration avec les autres bureaux et les divers ministères et organismes de l'État.

UNP comprend deux directions opérationnelles. La Direction des affaires politiques et institutionnelles de Nations Unies (UNO) est chargée d'évaluer la portée politique des événements qui se produisent au Conseil de sécurité, à l'Assemblée générale et dans d'autres organismes des Nations Unies et de coordonner les politiques et les activités du Canada dans ces domaines. La Direction s'occupe également des politiques et des activités canadiennes qui intéressent le Conseil économique et social et ses organismes auxiliaires, ainsi que les organismes spéciaux et les institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies. La Direction des affaires sociales et humanitaires des Nations Unies (UNNS) a pour mission de coordonner les politiques et les activités canadiennes en ce qui concerne les affaires sociales, le secours aux réfugiés et l'aide d'urgence, et les droits de la personne. Par leurs activités d'orientation, de coordination et de liaison, les deux directions cherchent à tirer le meilleur parti des possibilités qu'offrent les Nations Unies et les institutions qui s'y rattachent afin de promouvoir une vaste gamme d'objectifs nationaux.

MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA AUX NATIONS UNIES, NEW YORK

Presque tous les membres des Nations Unies, y compris le Canada, ont jugé qu'il était indispensable et avantageux de maintenir une représentation permanente au siège des Nations Unies. La Mission permanente du Canada à New York a été établie en janvier 1948 et le Général McNaughton y fut affecté à titre de premier Représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies. Le tableau suivant donne, dans l'ordre, la liste de ceux qui se sont succédés à ce poste.

Général McNaughton	janvier 1948 - décembre 1949
J.W. Holmes (suppléant)	janvier 1950 - juin 1950
R.G. Riddell	juin 1950 - juin 1951
D.M. Johnson	août 1951 - août 1955
R.A. Mackay	août 1955 - novembre 1957
C.S.A. Ritchie	janvier 1958 - février 1962
P. Tremblay	juillet 1962 - juin 1966
G. Ignatieff	juillet 1966 - février 1969
Y. Beaulne	février 1969 - juin 1972
S.F. Rae	juillet 1972 - août 1976
W.H. Barton	août 1976 -

III^e PARTIE
ANNEXES

No de la
Résolution

33/424

Titre

Date d'adoption à
l'Assemblée générale

16/12/78

Pour

ASV

Vote
Contre

Absention

Systématisation et
évolution progressive des
normes et principes du droit
relatif au développement
économique international

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/93	Conférence des Nations Unies sur les contrats de vente internationale de marchandises	16/12/78	ASV			
33/94	Rapport du Comité spécial de la Charte des Nations Unies et du ratification du rôle de l'Organisation	16/12/78	ASV			
33/95	Rapport du Comité des relations avec les pays hôte	16/12/78	ASV			
33/96	Rapport du Comité spécial pour le renforcement de l'efficacité du principe du non-recours à la force dans les relations internationales	16/12/78	117	1	23*	
33/97	Projet de code de crimes contre la paix et la sécurité de l'humanité	16/12/78	116	0	23*	
33/139	Rapport de la Commission du droit international	19/12/78	ASV			
33/140	Application par les Etats des dispositions de la Convention de Vienne sur les relations diplomatiques de 1961	19/12/78	ASV			
33/141	Enregistrement et publication des traités et des accords internationaux en vertu de l'Article 102 de la Charte des Nations Unies	19/12/78	A ASV B ASV			
33/423	Résolutions adoptées par la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la représentation des Etats dans leurs relations avec les organisations internationales	16/12/78	ASV			

AUTRES DECISIONS

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
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33/430	Crise financière de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	19/12/78	ASV			
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33/433	Amendement au Statut du personnel de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	20/12/78	ASV			
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33/439	Projet de budget (dépenses d'appui au programme) de la Fondation des Nations Unies pour l'habitat et les établissements humains pour la période allant du 1er janvier au 30 juin 1979	21/12/78		116*	11	0
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33/440	Dépenses nécessaires pour le Programme intégré pour les produits de base	21/12/78		125*	9	0
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33/441	Locaux des Nations Unies à Nairobi	21/12/78	ASV			
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33/442	Agrandissement des salles de conférence et amélioration des installations à l'usage des services de conférence et des délégués au siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	21/12/78		113*	13	10
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33/443	Rapport du Corps commun d'inspection	21/12/78	ASV			
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33/444	Chapitres du rapport du Conseil économique et social renvoyés à la cinquième Commission	21/12/78	ASV			
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PARTIE VIII RÉSOLUTIONS PROPOSÉES PAR LA SIXIÈME COMMISSION

33/19	Elaboration d'une Convention internationale contre la prise d'otages	29/11/78	ASV**			
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33/92	Rapport de la Commission des Nations Unies pour le droit commercial international	16/12/78	ASV			
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* Indique comment le Canada a voté.
 ** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Vote Contre	Abstention
33/143	Questions relatives au personnel	20/12/78	132*	0	10
33/180	Décision intérimaire concernant le budget- programme de l'exercice biennal 1978-1979	21/12/78	A 113 B ASV C 124*	15 9	3*
33/181	Locaux des Nations Unies au Centre du Donaupark à Vienne	21/12/78	126*	0	11
33/203	Mode de présentation du budget de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	29/1/79	ASV		
33/204	Détermination des activités achevées, dépassées, d'une utilité marginale ou inefficace	29/1/79	123*	0	0
33/205	Budget-programme de l'exercice biennal 1978-1979	29/1/79	A 98 B 103 C 101	15 0 14	9* 22* 8*
AUTRES DECISIONS					
33/405	Troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer	10/11/78	86*	9	18
33/415	Examen du mécanisme des organes intergouvernementaux et des organes d'experts chargés de formuler, d'examiner et d'approuver les programmes et les budgets	14/12/78	ASV		
33/416	Gestion des ressources en matières de conférences	14/12/78	ASV		
33/417	Organisation des travaux des organes de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	14/12/78	ASV		
33/429	Plan à moyen terme pour la période 1980- 1983: Bureau du coordonnateur des Nations Unies pour les secours en cas de catastrophe	19/12/78	118*	8	8

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/116	Questions relatives au budget-programme de l'exercice biennal 1978-1979 (suite)	21/12/78	I ASV	II ASV	III ASV	IV ASV
			V ASV	VI ASV	VII ASV	VIII ASV
			IX 124*	0	9	0
		29/1/79	I ASV	II ASV	III 112*	IV ASV
			V ASV	VI 123*	VII 99	VIII ASV
			IX ASV	104*	10	8
33/117	Emploi d'experts et de consultants à l'Organisation des Nations Unies	19/12/78	ASV			
33/118	Plan à moyen terme pour la période 1980-1983	19/12/78	122*	0	11	
33/119	Rapport de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale	19/12/78	126*	0	10	
33/120	Régime des pensions des Nations Unies	19/12/78	129*	0	10	
33/121	PlACEMENT de la caisse commune des pensions du personnel des Nations Unies dans les titres des sociétés transnationales et dans les pays en développement	19/12/78	A 115	18*	6	
			B ASV			
33/142	Coordination administrative et budgétaire entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et les institutions spécialisées ainsi que l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique	20/12/78	ASV			

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No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Absention
33/414	Question d'Antigua, de Saint-Christophe-et-Nièves et Anguilla, de Sainte-Lucie et de Saint-Vincent	13/12/78	ASV			

PARTIE VII RÉSOLUTIONS PROPOSÉES PAR LA CINQUIÈME COMMISSION

33/10	Rapports financiers et comptes et rapports du Comité des commissaires aux comptes	3/11/78	ASV			
33/11	Barème des quote-parts pour la répartition des dépenses de l'Organisation des Nations Unies	3/11/78	ASV			
33/12	Modification de l'article 159 du règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale	3/11/78	ASV			
33/13	Financement des forces des Nations Unies chargées du maintien de la paix au Moyen-Orient	3/11/78	A 110*	4		14
		1/12/78	B 95*	3		12
		8/12/78	C 94*	3		11
		8/12/78	D 94*	3		11
		14/12/78	E 105*	9		14
		14/12/78	F 111*	9		9
33/14	Financement de la Force internationale des Nations Unies au Liban	3/11/78	114*	13		4
33/55	Plan des conférences	14/12/78	ASV			
33/56	Contrôle et limitation de la documentation	14/12/78	ASV			

33/116	Questions relatives au budget-programme de l'exercice biennal 1978-1979	19/12/78	I 116*	0		9
			II ASV			
			III ASV			
			IV 114*	0		14
			V ASV			
			VI 118*	10		2

* Indique comment le Canada a voté.
 ** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Absention
33/40	Activités des intérêts étrangers, économiques et autres, qui font obstacle à l'application de la Déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux en Rhodésie du Sud et en Namibie et dans tous les autres territoires se trouvant sous domination coloniale, et aux efforts tendant à éliminer le colonialisme, l'apartheid et la discrimination raciale en Afrique australe	13/12/78	83	14*	34
33/41	Application de la Déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux par les institutions spécialisées et les organismes internationaux associés à l'Organisation des Nations Unies	13/12/78	133	0	8*
33/42	Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe	13/12/78	ASV		
33/43	Moyens d'étude et de formation offerts par des Etats membres aux habitants des territoires non autonomes	13/12/78	ASV		
AUTRES DECISIONS					
33/407	Question de la Namibie	7 /12/78	ASV		
33/408	Question de Gibraltar	13/12/78	ASV		
33/409	Question des Tokélaou	13/12/78	ASV		
33/410	Question de Sainte-Hélène	13/12/78	ASV		
33/411	Question des Iles Cocos (Keeling)	13/12/78	ASV		
33/412	Question du Brunéi	13/12/78	ASV		
33/413	Question de Pitcairn, des Iles Falkland (Maldives) et des Iles Gilbert	13/12/78	ASV		

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Absention
33/190	Préparatifs de la Conférence mondiale de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme: égalité, développement et paix	29/1/79	ASV			
33/191	Lieu de réunion de la Conférence mondiale de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme, 1980	29/1/79	ASV			
33/406	Conférence des Nations Unies pour une Convention internationale sur la législation en matière d'adoption	29/11/78	ASV			

AUTRES DECISIONS

PARTIE VI RESOLUTIONS PROPOSEES PAR LA QUATRIEME COMMISSION

33/30	Question des Nouvelles-Hébrides	13/12/78	ASV**			
33/31	Question du Sahara occidental	13/12/78	A 90 B 66	10 30		39* 40*
33/32	Question des Samoa américaines	13/12/78	ASV			
33/33	Question du Guam	13/12/78	ASV			
33/34	Question des Iles Vierges américaines	13/12/78	ASV			
33/35	Question des Bermudes	13/12/78	ASV			
33/36	Question du Belize	13/12/78	127*	1		12
33/37	Renseignements relatifs aux territoires non autonomes, communiqués en vertu de l'article 73 de la Charte des Nations Unies	13/12/78	138*	0		3
33/38	Question de la Rhodésie du Sud	13/12/78	A 130 B 124	0		11* 15*
33/39	Question du Timor oriental	13/12/78	59	31		44*

* Indique comment le Canada a voté.

** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote Abstention
33/177	Projet de convention sur l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes	20/12/78	ASV		
33/178	Tortures et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants	20/12/78	ASV		
33/179	Code de conduite pour les responsables de l'application des lois	20/12/78	ASV		
33/184	Importance de l'amélio- ration de la condition et du rôle des femmes dans le domaine de l'enseigne- ment et dans le domaine économique et social en vue de réaliser l'égalité des hommes et des femmes	29/1/79	88	0	22*
33/185	Travaux préparatoires en vue de la Conférence mondiale de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme: égalité développement et paix, y compris l'adoption du sous- thème "Emploi, santé et enseignement"	29/1/79	ASV		
33/186	Rationalisation du système de présentation de rapports sur la condition de la femme	29/1/79	ASV		
33/187	Institut international de recherche et de formation des Nations Unies pour la promotion de la femme	29/1/79	ASV		
33/188	Fonds de contributions volontaires pour la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme	29/1/79	ASV		
33/189	Conférence mondiale de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme: égalité, développement et paix	29/1/79	ASV		

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote Abstention
33/164	Assistance aux étudiants réfugiés sud-africains	20/12/78	ASV		
33/165	Statut des personnes qui refusent de servir dans des forces militaires ou policières utilisées pour faire appliquer l'apartheid	20/12/78	ASV		
33/166	Question d'une Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant	20/12/78	ASV		
33/167	Dispositions à prendre au niveau régional, pour assurer la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme	20/12/78	ASV		
33/168	Stupéfiants	20/12/78	ASV		
33/169	Protection des droits de l'homme des militants syndicalistes arrêtés ou détenus	20/12/78	ASV		
33/170	Année internationale des personnes handicapées	20/12/78	ASV		
33/171	Annuaire des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies	20/12/78	ASV		
33/172	Personnes portées disparues à Chypre	20/12/78	69	6	55*
33/173	Personnes disparues	20/12/78	ASV		
33/174	Création du Fonds des Nations Unies pour le Chili	20/12/78	98*	6	35
33/175	Protection des droits de l'homme au Chili	20/12/78	96*	7	38
33/176	Importance de l'expérience du Groupe de travail spécial chargé d'enquêter sur la situation des droits de l'homme au Chili	20/12/78	54*	17	66

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/100	Conférence mondiale de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale	16/12/78	101	19*	15	
33/101	Etat de la Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale	16/12/78	ASV			
33/102	Rapport du Comité pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale	16/12/78	ASV			
33/103	Etat de la Convention internationale sur l'élimination et la répression du crime d'apartheid	16/12/78	109	0	30*	
33/104	Autres méthodes et moyens qui s'offrent dans le cadre des organismes des Nations Unies pour mieux assurer la jouissance effective des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales	16/12/78	ASV			
33/105	Autres méthodes et moyens qui s'offrent dans le cadre des organismes des Nations Unies pour mieux assurer la jouissance effective des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, y compris la création d'un poste de Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme	16/12/78	ASV			
33/106	Élimination de toutes les formes d'intolérance religieuse	16/12/78	118*	0	21	
33/162	La main-d'oeuvre migrante en Afrique australe	20/12/78	ASV			
33/163	Mesures destinées à améliorer la situation et à faire respecter les droits de l'homme et la dignité de tous les travailleurs migrants	20/12/78	124*	0	14	

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote Contre	Absention
33/26	Rapport du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés	29/11/78	ASV			
33/47	Expérience des pays quant à la promotion du mouvement coopératif	14/12/78	ASV			
33/48	Développement social dans le monde	14/12/78	125*	0		12
33/49	Préservation et épanouissement des valeurs culturelles	14/12/78	ASV			
33/50	Protection, restitution et retour des biens culturels et artistiques dans le cadre de la préserva- tion et de l'épanouissement futur des valeurs culturelles	14/12/78	127*	0		13
33/51	Pactes internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme	14/12/78	ASV			
33/52	Assemblée mondiale du troisième âge	14/12/78	ASV			
33/53	Droits de l'homme et progrès de la science et de la technique	14/12/78	83*	0		48
33/54	Examen et coordination des programmes des organisations du système des Nations Unies relatifs aux droits de l'homme et coopération avec d'autres programmes inter- nationaux dans le domaine des droits de l'homme	14/12/78	ASV			
33/98	Exécution du Programme pour la Décennie de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale	16/12/78	124	0		12*
33/99	Conférence mondiale de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale	16/12/78	107	18*		11

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote Abstention
33/438	Examen des progrès réalisés dans l'application des mesures spéciales se rapportant aux besoins des pays en développement sans littoral et de l'action spécifique menée en leur faveur	20/12/78	ASV		
33/446	Conférence des Nations Unies sur la science et la technologie au service du développement	29/1/79	ASV		
33/447	Rapport du Conseil économique et social sur l'application de la résolution 32/197 de l'Assemblée générale	29/1/79	ASV		
PARTIE V RÉSOLUTIONS PROPOSÉES PAR LA TROISIÈME COMMISSION					
33/6	Courants de communauté - cation avec la jeunesse et les organisations de jeunes	3/11/78	ASV**		
33/7	Année internationale de la jeunesse	3/11/78	ASV		
33/8	Éducation physique et échanges sportifs entre jeunes	3/11/78	ASV		
33/23	Conséquences néfastes pour la jouissance des droits de l'homme et l'assistance politique, militaire, économique et autre accordée aux régimes racistes et colonialistes d'Afrique australe	29/11/78	100	7	22*
33/24	Importance, pour la garantie et l'observation effectives des droits de l'homme, de la réalisation universelle du droit des peuples à l'autodétermination et de l'octroi rapide de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux	29/11/78	92	19*	20
33/25	Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés	29/11/78	ASV		
* indique comment le Canada a voté. ** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.					

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote Abstention
33/195	Coopération économique entre pays en développement	29/1/79	ASV		
33/196	Protectionnisme	29/1/79	109	1	21*
33/197	Décennie des Nations Unies des transports et des communications en Afrique	29/1/79	ASV		
33/198	Préparatifs en vue de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale en 1980	29/1/79	ASV		
33/199	Négociation commerciales multilatérales	29/1/79	110	11*	11
33/200	Participation effective et intégration des femmes au développement	29/1/79	ASV		
33/201	Examen d'ensemble des orientations des activités opérationnelles	29/1/79	ASV		
33/202	Restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies	29/1/79	ASV		
AUTRES DECISIONS					
33/419	Règlement intérieur des conférences pour les annonces de contributions	15/12/78	ASV		
33/420	Dépenses d'administration du Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies	15/12/78	ASV		
33/421	Pollution marine	15/12/78	ASV		
33/431	Fonds spécial des Nations Unies	19/12/78	ASV		
33/436	Documents concernant le rapport du Conseil économique et social	20/12/78	ASV		
33/437	Préparatifs pour une nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement	20/12/78	ASV		

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Absention
33/155	Effets du phénomène de l'inflation mondiale sur le processus de développement	20/12/78	120	0	19*	
33/156	Conférence des Nations Unies pour la négociation d'un arrangement international destiné à remplacer l'Accord international sur le blé de 1971, tel qu'il a été proposé	20/12/78	ASV			
33/157	Conférence des Nations Unies chargée d'élaborer un code international de conduite pour le transfert de technologie	20/12/78	ASV			
33/158	Conférence de négociation des Nations Unies sur un Fonds commun dans le cadre du Programme intégré pour les produits de base	20/12/78	ASV			
33/159	Problèmes d'endettement des pays en développement	20/12/78	119	0	22*	
33/160	Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'élaboration d'une convention sur le transport multimodal international	20/12/78	ASV			
33/161	Transformation de l'Orga- nisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel en institution spécialisée	20/12/78	ASV			
33/192	Conférence des Nations Unies sur la science et la technique au service du développement	29/1/79	ASV			
33/193	Préparatifs d'une stratégie internationale du dévelop- pement pour la troisième Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement	29/1/79	ASV			
33/194	Aide multilatérale au développement de l'explo- ration des ressources naturelles	29/1/79	ASV			

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/144	Rôle du secteur public dans la promotion du développement économique des pays en développement	20/12/78	ASV			
33/145	Sixième reconstitution des ressources de l'Association inter-nationale de développement et augmentation du capital de la Banque mondiale	20/12/78	ASV			
33/146	Aide à la reconstruction et au développement du Liban	20/12/78	ASV			
33/147	Assistance au peuple palestinien	20/12/78	102	5*		35
33/148	Conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables	20/12/78	ASV			
33/149	Mesures spéciales en faveur des pays en développement les moins avancés	20/12/78	ASV			
33/150	Action spécifique se rapportant aux besoins particuliers des pays en développement sans littoral	20/12/78	134*	0		4
33/151	Transfert inverse de technologie	20/12/78	141*	0		0
33/152	Assistance à Antigua, à Saint-Christophe-et-Nièves et à Saint-Vincent	20/12/78	ASV			
33/153	Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pratiques commerciales restrictives	20/12/78	ASV			
33/154	Cinquième session de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement	20/12/78	ASV			

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/111	Coopération internationale dans le domaine des établis- sements humains	18/12/78	ASV			
33/122	Organisation mondiale du tourisme	19/12/78	ASV			
33/123	Assistance aux Comores	19/12/78	ASV			
33/124	Assistance à la Guinée- Bissau	19/12/78	ASV			
33/125	Assistance à Sao Tomé et Príncipe	19/12/78	ASV			
33/126	Assistance au Mozambique	19/12/78	ASV			
33/127	Assistance au Cap-Vert	19/12/78	ASV			
33/128	Assistance au Lesotho	19/12/78	ASV			
33/129	Assistance aux Seychelles	19/12/78	ASV			
33/130	Assistance au Botswana	19/12/78	ASV			
33/131	Assistance à la Zambie	19/12/78	ASV			
33/132	Assistance au Djibouti	19/12/78	ASV			
33/133	Réalisation du Programme de redressement et de réhabilitation à moyen et à long terme de la zone soudano-sahélienne	19/12/78	ASV			
33/134	Conférence des Nations Unies sur la coopération technique entre pays en développement	19/12/78	ASV			
33/135	Le rôle du personnel national qualifié dans le développement social et économique des pays en développement	19/12/78	ASV			
33/136	Accélération du transfert de ressources réelles aux pays en développement	19/12/78	118	1		20*
33/137	Financement du développement	19/12/78	122	0		17*

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/81	Besoins des enfants réfugiés palestiniens en matière de santé	15/12/78	ASV			
33/82	Rapport du Conseil d'administration du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement	15/12/78	ASV			
33/83	Année internationale de l'enfant	15/12/78	ASV			
33/84	Programme des volontaires des Nations Unies	15/12/78	ASV			
33/85	Fonds spécial des Nations Unies pour les pays en développement sans littoral	15/12/78	114	0		23*
33/86	Rapport du Conseil d'administration du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement	15/12/78	ASV			
33/87	Coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement en matière de ressources naturelles partagées par deux ou plusieurs Etats	15/12/78	ASV			
33/88	Mesures à prendre en faveur de la région soudano-sahélienne	15/12/78	ASV			
33/89	Plan d'action pour lutter contre la désertification	15/12/78	130*	0		10
33/90	Déclaration de Mexico du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation	15/12/78	ASV			
33/108	Université des Nations Unies	18/12/78	ASV			
33/109	Création d'une Université pour la paix	18/12/78	ASV			
33/110	Conditions de vie du peuple palestinien	18/12/78	109	2		24*

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/138	Question de la composition des organes pertinents de l'Organisation des Nations Unies: amendements aux articles 31 et 38 du règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale	19/12/78	105	29*		3

AUTRES DECISIONS

33/402	Question de Chypre	8/11/78	ASV			
33/425	Liberté de l'information	18/12/78	ASV			
33/426	Création d'un organisme ou d'un département de l'Organisation des Nations Unies chargé d'entreprendre et de coordonner des recherches sur les objets volants non identifiés et les phénomènes connexes et de diffuser les résultats obtenus	18/12/78	ASV			

PARTIE IV RÉSOLUTIONS PROPOSÉES PAR LA DEUXIÈME COMMISSION

33/20	Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche	29/11/78	ASV**			
33/21	Assistance aux régions de l'Éthiopie victimes de la sécheresse	29/11/78	ASV			
33/22	Bureau du coordonnateur des Nations Unies pour les secours en cas de catastrophe	29/11/78	ASV			
33/77	Troisième Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel	15/12/78	ASV			
33/78	Coopération en matière de développement industriel	15/12/78	ASV			
33/79	Révision des listes d'États éligibles au Conseil du développement industriel	15/12/78	ASV			
33/80	Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance	15/12/78	ASV			

* Indique comment le Canada a voté.
 ** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
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AUTRES DECISIONS

33/418	Langue de travail pour la réunion des Etats du littoral et de l'arrière pays de l'Océan Indien	14/12/78	ASV			
33/422	Réalisation d'un film de l'Organisation des Nations Unies sur les guerres et leurs conséquences	16/12/78	108	0		23*

PARTIE III RESOLUTIONS PROPOSEES PAR LA COMMISSION POLITIQUE SPECIALE

33/5	Effets des rayonnements ionisants	3/11/78	ASV**			
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33/16	Coopération internationale touchant les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique	10/11/78	ASV			
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33/112	Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient	18/12/78	A 136* B ASV C 136*	0	0	2
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33/113	Rapport du Comité spécial chargé d'enquêter sur les pratiques israéliennes affectant les droits de l'homme de la population des territoires occupés	18/12/78	A 140* B 139* C 97	1	1	1
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33/114	Etude d'ensemble de toute la question des opérations de maintien de la paix sous tous leurs aspects	18/12/78	106*	11		19
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33/115	Coopération et assistance pour l'application et l'amélioration des systèmes d'information et de communication de masse aux fins du progrès social et de développement	19/12/78	A ASV B ASV C ASV			
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* indique comment le Canada a voté.
** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la	Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Absention
33/70		Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'interdiction ou la limitation de l'emploi de certaines armes classiques qui peuvent être considérées comme produisant des effets traumatiques excessifs ou comme frappant sans discrimination	14/12/78	ASV		
33/71	A-N	Examen de l'application des recommandations et décisions adoptées par l'Assemblée générale à sa dixième session extraordinaire	14/12/78	A 72 B 103 C 130*	30* 18* 2	37 18 8
				D ASV E ASV F ASV G ASV H 129 I ASV J 121*	0 0 0	13* 18
33/72	A-B	Conclusion d'une convention internationale sur le renforcement des garanties de la sécurité des Etats non nucléaires	14/12/78	A 137* B 124*	2 0	4 14
33/73		Déclaration sur la préparation des sociétés à vivre dans la paix	15/12/78	138*	0	2
33/74		Non-intervention dans les affaires intérieures des Etats	15/12/78	128	0	14*
33/75		Application de la Déclaration sur le renforcement de la sécurité internationale	15/12/78	119	2	19*
33/76		La situation au Nicaragua	15/12/78	85*	2	45
33/91	A-I	Désarmement général et complet	16/12/78	A ASV B 132* C 127* D 117* E 93* F 105 G 126* H 108* I ASV	0 1 0 0 18* 9 10	2 10 21 40 12 1 16

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Abstention
33/60	Application de la résolution 32/78 de l'Assemblée générale	14/12/78	134*	1		5
33/61	Application de la résolution 32/79 de l'Assemblée générale relative à la signature et à la ratification du Protocole additionnel II au Traité visant l'interdiction des armes nucléaires en Amérique latine (Traité de Tlatelolco)	14/12/78	ASV			
33/62	Mesures efficaces visant à assurer la réalisation des buts et objectifs de la Décennie du désarmement	14/12/78	ASV			
33/63	Application de la Déclaration sur la dénucléarisation de l'Afrique	14/12/78	136*	0		3
33/64	Création d'une zone exempte d'armes nucléaires dans la région du Moyen-Orient	14/12/78	138*	0		1
33/65	Création d'une zone exempte d'armes nucléaires en Asie du Sud	14/12/78	97*	2		37
33/66	Interdiction de la mise au point et de la fabrication de nouveaux types d'armes de destruction massive et de nouveaux systèmes de telles armes	14/12/78	A 117* B 118	0 0		24 24*
33/67	Réduction des budgets militaires	14/12/78	121*	0		18
33/68	Application de la déclaration faisant de l'océan Indien une zone de paix	14/12/78	130	0		14*
33/69	Conférence mondiale du désarmement	14/12/78	ASV			

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Vote Contre	Abstention
33/403	Prix des Nations Unies pour les droits de l'homme	10/11/78	ASV		
33/404	Notification du Secrétaire général en vertu du paragraphe 2 de l'Article 12 de la Charte des Nations Unies	10/11/78	ASV		
33/427	Rapport du Secrétaire général sur le travail de l'Organisation	18/12/78	ASV		
33/428	Rapport de la Cour internationale de Justice	18/12/78	ASV		
33/432	Suspension de la trentième session de l'Assemblée générale	20-21/12/78	ASV		
33/434	Rapport du Conseil de sécurité	20/12/78	ASV		
33/435	Question de l'île comorienne de Mayotte	20/12/78	ASV		
33/445	Rapport du Conseil économique et social	21/12/78	ASV		
33/57	Application des conclusions de la première Conférence des parties chargée de l'examen du Traité sur la non-prolifération des armes nucléaires et création d'un comité préparatoire pour la deuxième Conférence.	14/12/78	122*	1	16
33/58	Application de la résolution 32/76 de l'Assemblée générale relative à la signature et à la ratification du protocole additionnel I au Traité visant l'interdiction des armes nucléaires en Amérique latine (Traité de Tlatelolco)	14/12/78	ASV**		
33/59	Armes chimiques et bactériologiques (biologiques)	14/12/78	A ASV B ASV		

* Indique comment le Canada a voté.

** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Pour	Contre	Vote	Absstention
33/27	Coopération entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Organisation de l'unité africaine	1/12/78	ASV			
33/28	Question de la Palestine	7/12/78	A 97	19*	25	
A-C			B 103	14*	24	
			C 98	17*	26	
33/29	La situation au Moyen-Orient	7/12/78	100	4*	33	
33/44	Application de la Déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux	13/12/78	129*	0	6	
33/45	Diffusion d'information sur la décolonisation	13/12/78	135*	0	0	
33/46	Institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme	14/12/78	ASV			
33/107	Admission du Commonwealth de la Dominique à l'Organisation des Nations Unies	18/12/78	ASV			
33/182	Question de la Namibie	21/12/78	A 120	0	19*	
A-C			B 123	0	17*	
			C 136	0	5*	
33/183	Politique d'apartheid du Gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud	24/1/79	A ASV	4	0	
A-0			B 122*	7	0	
			C 129*	0	0	
			D 82	18*	28	
			E 105	6	16*	
			F ASV			
			G 96	5	23*	
			H 98	10*	20	
			I 130*	0	0	
			J 124*	0	4	
			K 115	0	12*	
			L 103	9*	17	
			M 113	3	13*	
			N 112*	0	15	
			O 117	0	10*	
33/401	Adoption de l'ordre du jour et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour	22/9/78	ASV			

AUTRES DÉCISIONS

BILAN DES VOTES DU CANADA À LA 33e SESSION
DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES
NATIONS UNIES

SOMMAIRE: La 33e session régulière de l'Assemblée générale a adopté 205 résolutions et 70 décisions. 133 résolutions ou parties de résolutions ont été adoptées par vote enregistré. Le Canada a voté pour 73 de ces résolutions (environ 55 p. 100), contre 19 (14 p. 100) et a déclaré 41 abstentions, soit environ (31 p. 100).

REFERENCE: Résolutions et décisions adoptées par l'Assemblée générale à sa trente-troisième session, Département de l'Information, Section de la presse, Nations Unies, New York. Communiqué de presse GA/5942, 6 février 1979.

PARTIE I RÉSOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES PAR L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE SANS RENVOI À UNE GRANDE COMMISSION

No de la Résolution	Titre	Date d'adoption à l'Assemblée générale	Vote		
33/1	Admission des îles Salomon	19/9/78	Pour	Contre	Abstention
adoptée sans vote(ASV)**					

33/2	Rapport du Comité plénier créé en application de la résolution 32/174 de l'Assemblée générale	19/10/78	ASV		
33/3	Rapport de l'Agence inter- nationale de l'énergie atomique	2/11/78	ASV		
33/4	Utilisation pacifique de l'énergie nucléaire aux fins du développement économique et social	2/11/78	ASV		
33/9	Pouvoirs des représentants à la trente-troisième session de l'Assemblée générale	3/11/79	ASV		
33/15	Question de Chypre	9/11/78	110*	4	
33/17	Troisième conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer	10/11/78	127*	0	22
33/18	Statut d'observation pour l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique auprès de l'Assemblée générale	10/11/78	ASV		1

* Indique comment le Canada a voté.
** ASV: en langage ordinaire aux Nations Unies, adoptée par consensus.

II^e PARTIE
BILAN DES VOTES DU CANADA
À LA XXXIII^e SESSION

conflict entre les deux traités n'est pas immédiatement évident, c'est-à-dire si l'article 103 de la Charte ne joue pas. Il est certain que le pouvoir du Conseil de sécurité d'interpréter les dispositions de la Charte serait affecté et que le traité lui-même pourrait constituer en pratique un amendement déguisé. Le problème s'aggrave, bien sûr, dans le cas fort probable où les signataires du traité ne comprendraient pas tous les membres des Nations Unies. Il va sans dire qu'une déclaration solennelle de l'Assemblée générale ne comporterait pas les mêmes risques et, au contraire, aiderait le Conseil de sécurité dans sa tâche. Il serait intéressant que la délégation de l'Union soviétique aborde ce problème tel qu'il a été posé à plusieurs reprises au Comité spécial et ailleurs.

M. le Président, ma délégation s'étant penchée sur les difficultés dans lesquelles risque de se plonger le Comité spécial, se demande vraiment si les divergences de vues ne sont pas si profondes qu'elles mettent en péril ses chances de succès, particulièrement compte tenu de l'impossibilité pratique et d'ailleurs de l'inopportunité d'imposer des solutions préfabriquées à l'un ou l'autre des groupes en présence. Il nous reste à envisager l'hypothèse où le Comité spécial serait quand même appelé à poursuivre ses travaux en 1979, et particulièrement à nous demander comment le Comité pourrait mettre fin à une anomalie, à savoir le traitement du règlement pacifique des différends dans deux comités distincts, celui de la Charte et celui du non-recours à la force. Cette situation devrait effectivement être corrigée. Nous devrions cependant pas pourquoi le règlement pacifique des différends devrait nécessairement être du ressort exclusif du Comité de la Charte, d'autant que celui-ci va bientôt avoir d'autres chats à fouetter, à la demande même de la majorité de ses membres. Une solution simple au problème du chevauchement serait probablement de passer au Comité sur le non-recours à la force les résultats de l'examen du règlement pacifique des différends par le Comité de la Charte à sa prochaine session, que ce Comité ait abouti à des recommandations ou simplement à une liste structurée de propositions. De cette manière, le Comité spécial aurait devant lui deux documents de travail, correspondant aux deux aspects principaux de son mandat et sur lesquels il pourrait se pencher à loisir. Cependant, qu'il y ait ou non une solution au problème du chevauchement, ma délégation estime bien sûr essentiel que le Comité continue à examiner les propositions qui lui ont été soumises concernant tous les aspects de son mandat, en évitant particulièrement de dissocier les questions du règlement pacifique des différends et du non-recours à la force et en demeurant fidèle à l'esprit de la Charte des Nations Unies.

général, en l'absence d'accord au moins sur les grandes lignes du travail futur.

M. le Président, il n'est pas possible pour ma délégation de partager l'opinion de ceux qui voudraient réduire le mandat du Comité spécial à la tâche de rédiger un projet de traité sur le non-recours à la force. Il nous paraîtrait peu sage également de songer à écarter la question du règlement pacifique des différends ou d'autres questions liées au non-recours à la force. Bon nombre d'idées fort intéressantes ont été soumises au Comité, ayant trait notamment au renforcement des pouvoirs du Conseil de sécurité, au Chapitre VII de la Charte, au rôle du Secrétaire général, à la possibilité de mécanismes d'enquête sous l'égide internationale et à l'importance du rôle de la Cour internationale de Justice. Si le mandat du Comité est reconduit, il faudrait que de telles idées y soient approfondies et traduites en propositions contenues dans des documents de travail.

La délégation soviétique en présentant son projet de traité s'est appuyée sur deux prémisses. La première, c'est qu'un tel traité assurerait dorénavant le respect du principe du non-recours à la force. La deuxième, c'est que ce faisant, le projet de traité n'aurait pas d'effets négatifs sur la Charte des Nations Unies. Cette session du Comité spécial ne nous a pas convaincus, je dois dire, du bien-fondé de ces deux prémisses.

En ce qui concerne l'effet positif possible du traité, il nous semble clair que ses dispositions sont vraiment trop générales pour avoir un effet pratique appréciable. On ne répêtera jamais assez que l'interdiction de recourir à la force est à peu près universellement reconnue et que ce n'est pas l'addition à ce principe de quelques articles dépourvus de mesures d'application concrètes qui règlera le cas où certains États s'estiment contraints de recourir à la force en dépit de cette interdiction. Ma délégation a entendu bien des fois la liste des effets bénéfiques qu'auraient un traité sur le non-recours à la force, allant du désarmement au progrès économique, social et technique. Mais ce qui manque à cette description, M. le Président, c'est le lien de cause à effet. Ce n'est pas tout de dire, par exemple, que le traité aurait comme résultat de faciliter le règlement de situations conflictuelles, on aimerait bien entendre comment, en l'absence de mesures visant à désamorcer les causes de tension, ce traité aurait plus d'effets que les obligations générales déjà acceptées. Il ne s'agit pas ici de nier la force obligatoire des règles de droit, mais de se demander si un traité aussi conçu, qui pourrait ne pas être respecté en l'absence de mesures d'application, ne risquerait pas d'affaiblir la force des règles qui y sont contenues. Ma délégation aimerait avoir des éclaircissements à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne la relation du projet de traité avec la Charte et le danger que celle-ci en soit affectée, le problème est un peu analogue à celui que je viens de décrire. En effet, quand la question s'est posée, la délégation soviétique a répondu par une déclaration de principe: le but du traité, dit-elle, est de concrétiser les principes définis dans la Charte, pas de créer de nouvelles obligations; le traité ne peut donc avoir d'effets négatifs sur la force juridique de la Charte. Voilà une belle formule, mais qui ne résout en aucune façon le dilemme qui a été posé par bon nombre de délégations; si le traité réaffirme les dispositions de la Charte, il est inutile et donne l'impression que ses dispositions se sont érodées ou affaiblies. Si le traité s'écarte de la Charte (un risque très réel dans un effort de "concrétisation" de ses dispositions), il risque de créer des confusions, particulièrement si le

mesure de s'attaquer efficacement à certains problèmes de nature globale. Il ne s'agit pas de nier l'existence de ces problèmes, mais simplement de reconnaître qu'il n'est ni logique, ni pratique de traiter dans le même instrument d'une part, de l'élimination de certains actes criminels ou terroristes et d'autre part, de questions relatives au gouvernement de l'État. Nous espérons que les efforts consentis par la communauté internationale pour s'attaquer à des problèmes tels que le racisme et d'autres violations des droits de la personne donneront les résultats escomptés, tout comme nous espérons qu'une nouvelle convention sur les prises d'otages réussira à supprimer cette forme de terrorisme. Monsieur le Président, les progrès accomplis jusqu'à maintenant par le Comité spécial nous incitent à croire que l'esprit de coopération et de désir sincère d'obtenir des résultats, dont ses membres ont fait preuve dans le passé, continueront de prévaloir. Il est évidemment nécessaire de renouveler le mandat du Comité dans l'espoir qu'il puisse compléter ses travaux au cours de l'année prochaine.

3. NON-RECOURS À LA FORCE

En ce qui concerne le point de l'ordre du jour sur le rapport du Comité spécial pour le renforcement de l'efficacité du principe du non-recours à la force dans les relations internationales, le Canada partage les réserves d'autres délégations occidentales et particulièrement des pays de l'OTAN. Il attache une grande importance à la nécessité de s'assurer que le traité élaboré se conforme totalement à la Charte des Nations Unies et de faire les liens entre le concept du non-recours à la force et celui du règlement pacifique des différends. Le 22 novembre 1978, s'adressant à la Sixième Commission, le représentant du Canada, M. Philippe Kirsch, a exprimé des réserves quant aux perspectives de succès du Comité spécial étant donné l'absence d'accord au moins sur les grandes lignes du travail futur. Il a insisté sur le fait qu'il était essentiel que le mandat du Comité reste flexible, parce que le projet de traité ne serait réalisable que s'il jouissait de l'appui de toutes les délégations et si le non-recours à la force et le règlement pacifique des différends étaient des concepts indissociables. Le représentant du Canada a également souligné les lacunes du projet de traité soviétique savoir, le caractère imprécis de ses dispositions et les difficultés inhérentes à tout effort visant à accorder le projet de traité avec la Charte. Enfin, M. Kirsch a suggéré qu'une solution simple au problème du chevauchement pourrait être de passer la question du règlement pacifique des différends du Comité de la Charte au Comité sur le non-recours à la force. Les paragraphes suivants constituent une partie des remarques formulées par le représentant du Canada.

Il est certainement possible de dégager de cette session du Comité spécial plusieurs éléments fort positifs. De façon générale, les délégations ont abordé et étudié les problèmes qui leur étaient posés d'une manière sérieuse et constructive. Bon nombre de délégations ont en outre eu conscience de la nécessité de faire les liens qui s'imposaient entre le non-recours à la force et d'autres composants de la question plus générale du maintien de la paix et la sécurité internationale. Si l'un des objectifs de cette session était de définir les problèmes et les positions en présence, elle a donc eu un certain succès. Mais dans la mesure où cet objectif a été atteint, on ne peut que se rallier à la remarque du Président du Comité que le rapport reflète les divisions profondes qui s'étaient déjà manifestées lors des 31^e et 32^e sessions de l'Assemblée générale. Il convient dès lors de se demander comment la discussion pourra progresser une fois passé le stade du débat

Le Canada est en faveur du renouvellement du mandat du Comité spécial de la Charte des Nations Unies et du raffermissement du rôle de l'Organisation. Le Comité est en effet arrivé à un point où il devrait lui être possible de faire des progrès relativement rapides pour réaliser ses objectifs. La délégation du Canada espère qu'à sa prochaine session le Comité sera en mesure de compléter sa liste des propositions concernant le règlement pacifique des différends et d'en établir une autre pour les propositions visant la rationalisation des procédures actuelles et le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. Sa tâche à cet égard devrait être facilitée par le fait que des discussions générales ont déjà eu lieu sur deux de ces trois questions et que les membres du Comité ont déjà eu l'occasion d'étudier les propositions visant la rationalisation des procédures.

2. PRISE D'OTAGES

Dans une déclaration faite le 16 novembre 1978, le représentant du Canada, M. Philippe Kirsch, a salué les progrès accomplis par le Comité spécial pour l'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre la prise d'otages à sa dernière session et a fait de brèves observations sur deux questions. En premier lieu, il a indiqué que la délégation du Canada pensait que le Comité devrait éviter des formulations compliquées dans le domaine du rapport entre le projet de Convention et d'autres secteurs du droit international, particulièrement les Conventions de Genève de 1949 et les deux protocoles additionnels adoptés en 1977. Les différents instruments traitant de prises d'otages devraient en effet être compatibles les uns avec les autres et se compléter. En second lieu, il a souligné que le Comité n'était pas en mesure de s'occuper efficacement de certains problèmes ayant trait à la conduite des États et devrait se concentrer sur l'élimination d'actes terroristes ou criminels commis par des individus. Voici les commentaires de M. Kirsch.

Au cours de sa deuxième session, le Comité spécial pour l'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre la prise d'otages, dont le Canada fait partie, a fait des progrès considérables vers la réalisation de son mandat. Cependant, l'un des problèmes les plus difficiles auxquels le Comité a dû s'attaquer est la définition du lien entre la convention proposée et les dispositions pertinentes du droit international, en particulier les Conventions de Genève de 1949 et leurs deux protocoles additionnels, qui ont été adoptés récemment. Ma délégation est d'avis que le Comité devrait éviter toute formulation compliquée qui, dans ce domaine, risque fort de devenir un facteur de confusion plutôt que de clarification. Une prise d'otages reste une prise d'otages, quel que soit l'instrument consulté. Il faut éviter de créer des divergences entre différents accords; ceux-ci doivent au contraire se compléter mutuellement et être conséquents les uns par rapport aux autres, surtout lorsque leurs objectifs sont d'ordre humanitaire. Toutefois, quelle que soit la formulation définitive, le fait que le fossé entre les divers groupes de négociation se soit rétréci sur ces questions reflète la détermination de la communauté internationale d'assurer le succès du travail entrepris par le Comité.

Monsieur le Président, le Comité spécial est saisi de plusieurs autres questions délicates dont la plupart n'ont pas encore été discutées. De nombreuses délégations ont exposé leur position de principe sur ces questions au cours de la dernière session de la Sixième Commission. Toutefois, il est clair que le Comité n'est pas et ne peut pas être en

existants et des raisons pour lesquelles on n'y a pas plus largement recours, examen qu'il serait fort utile d'achever avant de prendre de nouvelles initiatives appelant la création d'obligations juridiques supplémentaires. Par ailleurs, l'élaboration de nouveaux régimes juridiques risque de diminuer l'efficacité, ou l'efficacité potentielle des mécanismes existants avant même que celle-ci ait été mise adéquatement à l'épreuve. Enfin, le règlement pacifique des différends est une notion inséparable de la question du non-recours à la force, qu'un autre comité est en train d'étudier. S'il fallait élaborer un nouveau régime juridique que pour le règlement pacifique des différends, nous estimons que le Comité du non-recours à la force serait une instance plus appropriée.

Le Comité spécial a été saisi d'un bon nombre de suggestions intéressantes visant la rationalisation des procédures. Nous savons certainement que l'adoption de la plupart de ces propositions aurait pour effet d'accroître l'efficacité des Nations Unies et particulièrement de l'Assemblée générale. Mais il reste que certaines d'entre elles sont probablement inapplicables au stade actuel, parce qu'elles exigent des Etats membres un degré de maturité et d'autodiscipline qui semble parfois faire défaut à l'heure actuelle. Nous espérons par conséquent que le Comité concentrera ses efforts sur l'examen des propositions sur lesquelles un accord général est possible, afin d'être en mesure d'élaborer des suggestions concrètes dans un proche avenir.

Nous soumettrons entièrement aux observations formulées par le Secrétaire général dans son rapport à l'Assemblée générale, visant l'amélioration et la rationalisation du fonctionnement de cet organe. Il est clair en effet que l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale risque d'être trop chargé. Nous espérons par conséquent qu'il sera possible dans un proche avenir de mettre au point des procédures permettant, premièrement, de limiter le nombre des points de l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale et, deuxièmement, de ne soumettre à la décision finale en séance plénière que les questions ayant déjà fait l'objet d'une discussion à fond en commission. Nous approuvons par ailleurs sans réserve la déclaration du Secrétaire général selon laquelle la pratique qui consiste à choisir arbitrairement certaines questions pour les examiner en séance plénière risque de produire à la fois des doubles emplois et une perte d'impact et de nuire à la cohérence des travaux de l'Assemblée. Nous estimons en outre que c'est au Bureau de l'Assemblée générale qu'il revient au premier chef de réduire le nombre des points de l'ordre du jour par élimination ou par regroupement de manière à éviter les chevauchements et les déséquilibres dans le programme de travail. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons pleinement les délégations qui ont suggéré que l'Assemblée générale aurait intérêt à autoriser le Bureau à se réunir avant la prochaine session de l'Assemblée en vue d'examiner ces questions plus à loisir.

Monsieur le Président, j'aborde maintenant la question du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. A l'instar d'un grand nombre de délégations, nous estimons qu'il s'agit là d'un domaine d'importance fondamentale dans lequel le Comité pourrait jouer un rôle très constructif. La délégation du Canada espère que le Comité examinera de façon systématique et positive les propositions dont il a été saisi et que, conformément à son mandat, il se consacrerait en premier lieu à l'étude de celles sur lesquelles un accord général semble possible. En d'autres termes, nous attendons du Comité qu'il concentre ses efforts sur l'étude des moyens qui permettront d'assurer plus efficacement la paix et la sécurité internationales au lieu de chercher à examiner et peut-être à remettre en question des décisions fondamentales qui ont été prises à l'époque de l'élaboration de la Charte.

F. QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES

1. RÉVISION DE LA CHARTE

Dans une déclaration faite le 19 octobre 1978, le représentant du Canada, M. M.D. Copithorne, a noté le progrès accompli par le Comité spécial de la charte des Nations Unies et du raffermissement du rôle de l'Organisation. Par contre, il a fait remarquer que celui-ci pourrait sensiblement améliorer ses méthodes de travail. En ce qui concerne le règlement pacifique des différends, M. Copithorne a énoncé la préférence du Canada pour les propositions portant sur le renforcement ou une utilisation accrue des mécanismes existants, par opposition aux propositions de nouvelles procédures dans un contexte juridique changé, qu'il s'agisse d'amendements à la Charte ou de l'adoption de nouveaux instruments juridiques. En ce qui concerne la rationalisation des procédures, il a encouragé le Comité à se concentrer sur les mesures visant à éviter la multiplication de points à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale et à les répartir plus efficacement. Le représentant du Canada s'est prononcé également en faveur du renouvellement du mandat du Comité et a espéré qu'il pourrait au moins compléter à sa prochaine session des listes de propositions pour les sujets à l'ordre du jour.

La délégation du Canada, qui a étudié attentivement le rapport présenté par le Comité spécial sur sa dernière session, se félicite de l'adoption de meilleures méthodes de travail et des progrès réalisés. La décision de créer un groupe de travail à composition non limitée pour analyser les sujets d'une manière systématique a été nettement positive. Nous avons également pris bonne note des progrès accomplis dans l'élaboration d'une liste de propositions concernant le règlement pacifique des différends, ainsi que des propositions formulées par diverses délégations au sujet de la rationalisation des procédures et du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales.

Nous estimons toutefois que le Comité pourrait encore améliorer ses méthodes de travail. Ainsi, comme l'ont déjà souligné bon nombre de délégations, la "compilation" des 51 propositions relatives au règlement pacifique des différends établie par le groupe de travail informel, seul résultat tangible d'un mois de travaux du Comité, ne semble pas constituer plus qu'une simple énumération de propositions présentées par les États membres. Quand on sait par ailleurs qu'il n'entrerait pas dans les intentions des membres du groupe de travail de statuer sur le fond des propositions, on est en droit de se demander pourquoi neuf séances ont été nécessaires pour établir cette compilation. La délégation du Canada espère que le Comité saura tirer une leçon de l'expérience de cette année et qu'il adoptera des procédures qui lui permettront d'ores et déjà de faire meilleur usage de son temps.

Au cours de sa session de 1978, le Comité a consacré la plus grande partie de son temps à la question du règlement pacifique des différends. À cet égard, nous avons remarqué que les propositions présentées par les États peuvent être classées dans deux grandes catégories à savoir, d'une part, celles qui recommandent un renforcement ou une meilleure utilisation des mécanismes existants et, d'autre part, celles qui proposent la création de nouvelles procédures dans un nouveau cadre juridique qu'on constituerait soit en révisant la Charte, soit en adoptant de nouveaux instruments juridiques internationaux. D'une manière générale, nous préférons que le Comité accorde la priorité à la première catégorie de propositions. En effet, cette approche implique nécessairement un examen de l'efficacité des mécanismes

plus des mesures qui seront prises par la trente-quatrième Assemblée générale, notamment la possibilité de rembourser cette somme aux pays membres. Monsieur le Président, nous manquons à nos responsabilités en ne faisant rien pour assurer la viabilité des forces et répondre aux besoins pressants et aux préoccupations des pays membres qui ont fourni des troupes et du matériel. Ma délégation espère que le Comité accueillera favorablement cette mesure qui respecte à la fois les critères de responsabilité financière et les principes politiques en cause.

Gouvernements dont les contributions s'élèvent collectivement à plus de 50 % du budget ont voté contre ces crédits supplémentaires, et si l'on tient compte de ceux qui se sont abstenus, le total dépasse 75 %. M. le Président, le Canada s'abstiendra lors du vote sur les dépenses supplémentaires.

2. FINANCEMENT DE LA FNUU ET DE LA FNUOD

À la Cinquième Commission M. Carl Pedersen, représentant du Canada, a présenté un projet de résolution au nom de ses auteurs. Ce projet de résolution a pour but de permettre à l'Assemblée générale de prendre les décisions nécessaires pour financer les forces des Nations Unies chargées du maintien de la paix au Moyen-Orient: la Force d'urgence des Nations Unies (FNUU) et la Force des Nations Unies chargée d'observer le désarmement (FNUOD). En priant tous les États membres d'appuyer la résolution, M. Pedersen a dit que les opérations de maintien de la paix de l'Organisation des Nations Unies peuvent être rangées parmi les activités de l'Organisation les plus efficaces. La présence de contingents de l'ONU dans les zones névralgiques s'est avérée un facteur important de stabilisation qui a empêché la reprise des hostilités et amélioré les perspectives des règlements pacifiques. La délégation du Canada estime que les 150 États membres de l'Organisation sont collectivement responsables des opérations de maintien de la paix et elle est préoccupée par le fait que plusieurs États membres ne versent pas les contributions mises en recouvrement à cette fin ou n'en versent qu'une partie, ce qui a pour effet non seulement d'imposer une charge financière plus lourde aux pays qui fournissent des contingents et de compromettre la participation de pays en développement à ces opérations, mais également de menacer l'existence de ces forces. Si l'Organisation ne parvient pas à trouver d'urgence une solution à ce problème, le jour viendra peut-être où elle ne sera plus en mesure de mettre en place une force chargée du maintien de la paix même si les États membres le souhaitent. Voici des commentaires du représentant du Canada à ce sujet.

Cette résolution fait suite aux difficultés croissantes qu'éprouve le Secrétaire général à respecter les échéances financières immédiates des forces, en particulier envers les pays qui ont fourni des troupes. Si l'on examine le bilan du fonds pour la FNUU et la FNUOD, on constate un surplus des recettes sur les dépenses d'environ \$17.7 millions pour la période allant du 25 octobre 1973 au 24 octobre 1977. En vertu des dispositions des règlements financiers des Nations Unies, il faut défactuer cette somme de la cotisation des pays membres. Cependant, les pays membres comprendront que ce surplus n'existe que sur papier; en effet, les opérations de la FNUU et de la FNUOD subsistent en réalité un déficit puisque certains pays membres refusent de payer leur cotisation. Comme l'a déclaré le Secrétaire général, la situation financière des forces atteindra bientôt un seul critère. Par conséquent, si l'on créait cette somme dans la conjoncture actuelle, l'encaisse de l'ONU en souffrirait davantage et le contrôle éprouverait encore plus de difficultés à payer les factures des opérations onusiennes de maintien de la paix.

Par conséquent, il faut absolument éviter d'envenimer une situation déjà délicate, tant pour maintenir la solvabilité des forces que pour payer les pays qui ont fourni des troupes. À cet égard, nous pouvons améliorer l'encaisse en suspendant l'application des dispositions des règlements financiers relatives à la somme en question et en inscrivant cette somme dans un compte de l'ONU distinct. L'adoption de cette mesure ne constituerait nullement un précédent et ne préjugerait pas non

E. QUESTIONS ADMINISTRATIVES ET BUDGETAIRES

1. BUDGET ORDINAIRE DE L'ONU

M. William H. Barton, ambassadeur et représentant permanent du Canada auprès des Nations Unies, a fait une déclaration le 29 janvier 1979 en plénière de l'Assemblée générale sur les montants estimatifs révisés des revenus et dépenses pour l'exercice 1978-1979. Il a critiqué l'incapacité de l'Assemblée générale de contrôler le budget et la gestion des programmes des Nations Unies et a exprimé l'importance qu'attache le Canada aux mesures visant à remédier aux problèmes financiers au sein de l'Organisation.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies est sur le point d'adopter un projet de dépenses budgétaires supplémentaires qui aura pour effet d'augmenter son budget biennal net, et ce après seulement un an, par près de 39 pour cent, par comparaison avec les dépenses nettes encourues pour l'exercice 1976-1977. De plus, le Secrétaire général a indiqué que nous pouvons nous attendre à de nouvelles demandes vers la fin de 1979. En approuvant ce projet, nous n'approuvons pas simplement certaines dépenses, nous fournissons la preuve irréversible de l'incapacité de cette Assemblée de contrôler le budget et la gestion des programmes des Nations Unies. Une telle attitude créerait une situation des plus malsaines dans les meilleures circonstances. Or, il est de fait que plusieurs États membres font face à l'heure actuelle à de sérieuses difficultés économiques et se sont vus forcés, malgré les désavantages politiques que cela impliquerait, de freiner leurs propres programmes de développement. Cela nous place dans une situation intolérable.

Vous-même, M. le Président et le Secrétaire général également, avez attiré notre attention sur la nécessité pour l'Assemblée d'améliorer sa procédure pour la conduite efficace de ses travaux, et le Secrétaire général nous a déclaré tout juste avant Noël, qu'il avait l'intention de nous soumettre ses recommandations en temps utile pour examen à la prochaine session. J'espère, et je n'ai aucune raison d'en douter, que le problème du contrôle à exercer sur le programme et le budget constituera un chapitre important de cette étude. J'estime, M. le Président qu'il est urgent de prêter attention à cette question et d'établir un mécanisme approprié pour l'adoption, dès le début de chaque exercice biennal, d'un objectif chiffré qui ne saurait être dépassé. Il conviendrait également de prendre une décision irréversible nécessitant le financement de toute modification ultérieure dans le programme à l'intérieur de limites budgétaires établies, si nécessaire, par la suspension des projets de moindre priorité. Nos gouvernements doivent eux-mêmes agir ainsi dans la poursuite de leurs propres affaires. Notre incapacité d'en faire autant nous rend impopulaire auprès du public et pourrait éventuellement menacer l'existence même des Nations Unies.

La Charte impose à chaque gouvernement l'obligation de payer sa part des coûts de l'Organisation, comme les établit l'Assemblée générale. C'est la un principe d'importance cruciale pour l'intégrité des Nations Unies, et le Canada s'inquiéterait beaucoup de toute action qui pourrait y porter atteinte. Mais si nous persistons à démontrer que nous ne pouvons pas contrôler collectivement ces mesures budgétaires, il ne fait aucun doute alors que certains gouvernements en arriveront à la conclusion qu'ils doivent agir individuellement. Si cela devait arriver, le résultat ne pourrait être que l'affaiblissement de la capacité de l'Assemblée de gérer ses propres affaires. Dans ce contexte, il est certainement approprié de noter qu'à la Cinquième Commission, les

L'explication se trouve dans une large mesure dans la survivance en cette fin du XXe siècle d'usages et de traditions qui ne sont pas encore au diapason d'une société transformée par la science et la technologie. Notre monde a changé mais, trop souvent, nos anciennes attitudes subsistent. Le Canada n'est évidemment pas le seul dans cette situation.

L'entrée d'un nombre sans précédent de femmes dans la population active, notamment au cours des dix dernières années, a fait ressortir clairement le peu d'empressement que la société moderne met non seulement à utiliser pleinement le potentiel de la femme, mais aussi à lui assurer des conditions justes et équitables. Soucieux de remédier à ces lacunes, le Canada a adopté un ensemble de lois visant à instaurer plus rapidement une société plus équitable. La loi elle-même n'est pas l'unique instrument qui puisse modifier immédiatement les attitudes de la communauté. Ces évidences s'appliquent tout particulièrement aux questions qui se rattachent à l'évolution de la condition de la femme dans la société moderne.

Comme dans d'autres pays industrialisés, les femmes du Canada se retrouvent en général dans cinq ou six catégories d'occupation et font presque toujours partie des secteurs les moins bien rémunérés et organisés de la population active. Néanmoins, on constate depuis peu au Canada des changements considérables dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur, notamment dans les études menant aux professions libérales. Un nombre croissant de jeunes femmes entrent en droit ou en médecine. On constate aussi un accroissement sensible du nombre de jeunes femmes dans les sciences de l'administration, le commerce et les finances, facultés où jusqu'à tout récemment, on relevait de graves lacunes en matière de représentation féminine.

Le gouvernement du Canada appuie sans réserves le Plan d'action mondial conçu lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies tenue à Mexico au cours de l'Année internationale de la femme. En conséquence, il a élaboré un nouveau Plan d'action canadien pour les dernières années de la décennie et au-delà que le Cabinet sera appelé à approuver sous peu. Le nouveau Plan national portera moins sur l'adoption de nouvelles lois, le programme législatif étant déjà presque entièrement adopté, mais d'avantage sur les mesures à prendre pour s'assurer que l'application des lois existantes ne fait pas de discrimination contre les femmes, notamment dans l'actuelle conjoncture économique difficile.

Le Canada a toujours cherché à apporter sa contribution sur le plan international. Il est prêt à appuyer ceux qui sont décidés à s'assurer que les politiques économiques internationales sont appliquées de manière à promouvoir le bien-être de l'ensemble des populations, et que le progrès économique profite également aux hommes et aux femmes. Le gouvernement du Canada souhaite vivement promouvoir, tant sur le plan multilatéral que bilatéral, des programmes qui non seulement répondront aux besoins en développement de tous les peuples en général, mais garantiront aux femmes la position économique et sociale que la communauté internationale en est venue à leur reconnaître. Le rôle de la femme dans l'économie et dans la société est maintenant reconnu, comme en atteste la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme, et la délégation du Canada espère que se poursuivront ces efforts aussi constructifs. Nous aurons l'occasion d'évaluer à nouveau les programmes lors de la Conférence mondiale qui se tiendra en 1980.

Le gouvernement du Canada a été heureux de constater à la récente réunion du Comité exécutif du HCR à Genève que le Haut-Commissaire avait réussi à réunir les fonds nécessaires au financement de ses programmes en 1978. Néanmoins, le nombre de gouvernements qui supportent le fardeau financier des programmes du HCR reste relativement limité. Le nombre des pays qui participent de façon significative aux efforts d'établissement des réfugiés est encore plus restreint. Les bouleversements dramatiques et les problèmes des réfugiés qui en ont été les victimes se sont traduits par le quadruplement des dépenses et des activités du Haut-Commissariat. L'apport des donateurs traditionnels et des nouveaux contributeurs doit être à la mesure de ces besoins nouveaux, sans quoi on se verra peut-être forcé de réduire l'importance des programmes qui apportent une aide humanitaire vitale aux réfugiés dans diverses parties du monde.

Tant par sa générosité financière que par l'accueil qu'il a réservé aux réfugiés, le Canada a toujours voulu appuyer activement le Haut-Commissaire. Depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, mon pays a ouvert ses portes à plus de 350,000 réfugiés et a consacré des millions de dollars aux services qui devaient faciliter l'intégration de ces nouveaux résidents dans la société canadienne. L'an dernier, une nouvelle loi sur l'immigration est venue souligner l'engagement qu'a pris le Canada par son adhésion aux conventions sur les droits de la personne et des réfugiés de considérer le réfugié comme un être humain digne d'une attention particulière. Outre son programme permanent d'admission des réfugiés, par lequel il accueille sans restrictions géographiques les réfugiés qui tombent sous le coup des conventions applicables, le Canada a mis sur pied en 1978 divers programmes spéciaux d'accueil face aux besoins humanitaires en Asie du Sud-Est, en Amérique latine et en Europe de l'Est.

Le gouvernement du Canada considère que ses programmes d'établissement des réfugiés apportent une contribution très significative aux efforts du Haut-Commissariat. À cet apport, le Canada ajoute en 1978 des contributions directes de 2,5 millions de dollars canadiens, dont \$500,000 pour le programme de secours aux réfugiés indochinois en Thaïlande. Nous comptons poursuivre cette coopération étroite et je tiens à réitérer notre espoir que l'ensemble de la communauté internationale participe davantage aux secours que commandent les souffrances des victimes les plus vulnérables face aux bouleversements politiques.

5. DROITS DE LA FEMME

Lors de son allocution à la Troisième Commission de l'Assemblée générale le 15 novembre 1978, la déléguée du Canada, Mme Sylvia Gelber, O.C., a discuté de l'ensemble de lois canadiennes visant à assurer aux femmes des conditions plus justes et équitables. Elle a aussi décrit brièvement la situation actuelle des Canadiennes dans les domaines du travail et des études supérieures. Le Canada a appuyé le Plan d'action mondial pour les femmes et s'est dit prêt à apporter, tant sur le plan multilatéral que bilatéral, sa contribution aux programmes visant à améliorer les conditions de vie pour la société en général et pour les femmes en particulier.

La politique du gouvernement du Canada, adoptée d'ailleurs à tous les niveaux de juridiction au sein de la Confédération canadienne, repose sur un engagement en faveur du principe de la pleine égalité de la femme et de l'homme dans tous les secteurs de la vie canadienne. S'il existe encore un écart considérable entre cette politique et la pratique,

largement ratifiés. Nous tous ici présents savons cependant que l'acceptation en théorie de normes internationales ne signifie pas automatiquement que ces normes sont respectées dans la pratique. L'Organisation des Nations Unies devrait encourager tous les États qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à souscrire aux éléments facultatifs des deux Pactes internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme et à adhérer au Protocole facultatif, car ces instruments constituent un moyen de contrôler le respect effectif des obligations. L'Organisation devrait également encourager les États à créer des institutions nationales s'occupant des droits de l'homme, en particulier des organes indépendants qui permettraient aux citoyens de déposer leurs plaintes et d'y voir donner suite.

La délégation du Canada est triste de constater le peu de progrès accomplis au chapitre de la promotion des droits de l'homme plus de trente ans après que les Nations Unies se l'aient fixée comme un de leurs principaux objectifs. Ces préoccupations représentent une critique implicite de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de son incapacité apparente de régler le problème des violations flagrantes et persistantes des droits de l'homme. Le gouvernement du Canada félicite l'Organisation de son intention de redoubler d'efforts pour promouvoir les droits de l'homme et revoir son mécanisme et ses activités à ce chapitre. Il continuera à appuyer les efforts tendant à identifier les problèmes de droits de l'homme - qu'ils soient d'ordre économique, social, culturel, civil ou politique - et à trouver des solutions appropriées. Madame la Présidente, le gouvernement du Canada continuera d'appuyer tous les efforts sérieux déployés pour faire avancer la cause des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales partout dans le monde, et insistera sur la responsabilité qui incombe à la communauté internationale de contrôler la situation dans ce domaine conformément aux obligations auxquelles ont souscrit les États en adhérant à la Charte des Nations Unies.

4. LE HAUT-COMMISSAIRE POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Dans sa déclaration à la Troisième Commission, le 13 novembre 1978, la déléguée du Canada, Mme Sylvia Gelber, O.C., a félicité le Haut-Commissaire pour les réfugiés (HCR) de ses efforts humanitaires. Elle a également exprimé la consternation du Canada quant à la hausse du nombre des réfugiés dont le Haut-Commissaire devait s'occuper. La déléguée du Canada a ensuite fait mention des nombreux pays qui ne supportent pas le fardeau financier du HCR et du quadruplement des dépenses et des activités du Haut-Commissariat. Enfin, elle a rappelé l'appui du Canada au HCR ainsi que son apport au programme de secours aux réfugiés indochinois.

Le gouvernement du Canada a suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt les efforts qu'a déployés au cours des douze derniers mois le Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés en faveur des personnes déplacées par la guerre, les désordres civils ou les persécutions. La délégation du Canada tient à lui rendre hommage pour le dévouement qu'il a mis à soulager les souffrances de ces victimes et à les établir dans de nouveaux foyers. Nous avons noté avec consternation que le Haut-Commissaire évalue à environ dix millions le nombre de réfugiés dans le monde aujourd'hui, sommet que l'humanité n'a pas connu depuis les grands mouvements de populations au lendemain de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La conjoncture politique actuelle nous amène à conclure que le problème ne perdra vraisemblablement pas de son ampleur dans un avenir rapproché.

fondamentales, ou qu'elles se produisent. Les Etats qui commentent ou réactions de la part des autres Etats: non seulement la Charte leur en fait obligation, mais ils doivent aussi fréquemment apporter des secours aux réfugiés et aux victimes des violations.

Trois voies principales s'ouvrent à l'Organisation dans les efforts qu'elle déploie pour trouver des moyens propres à assurer le respect de normes internationalement acceptées en ce qui concerne les droits de l'homme: tout d'abord, elle peut surveiller les violations des droits de l'homme et appeler l'attention de la communauté internationale sur ces violations; elle peut ensuite jouer un rôle de médiation et intercéder en faveur des victimes; et enfin, elle peut encourager le respect des droits de l'homme par l'information et les programmes d'enseignement. L'examen auquel nous livrons actuellement devrait viser à accroître la capacité de l'Organisation de s'acquiescer efficacement de ces trois fonctions. Le gouvernement que je représente a présenté un certain nombre de recommandations au Secrétaire général concernant des mesures destinées à accroître l'efficacité de la Commission des droits de l'homme au titre de la promotion du respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales. Le gouvernement du Canada considère le Comité des droits de l'homme, créé aux termes du Pacte relatif aux droits civils et politiques, comme l'un des instruments éventuellement les plus efficaces que l'Organisation des Nations Unies possède pour la promotion du respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales.

Le gouvernement du Canada est d'avis qu'il faut examiner attentivement les méthodes qui permettraient d'accroître la capacité du système des Nations Unies d'intercéder en faveur des victimes de violations des droits de l'homme. La délégation du Canada considère avec un intérêt particulier les propositions tendant à créer un poste de Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme qui pourrait être appelé à remplir des fonctions de bons offices en ce qui concerne les violations des droits de l'homme. Une autre possibilité serait d'encourager le Secrétaire général à offrir ses bons offices, soit personnellement soit par l'intermédiaire de représentants, pour se mettre confidentiellement en rapport avec les Etats en cas d'allégation de violations flagrantes ou persistantes de droits de l'homme. Une autre solution serait qu'un Secrétaire général adjoint ou un Sous-Secrétaire général remplisse des fonctions d'émisnaire dans ce domaine. On pourrait mettre à la disposition du Secrétaire général ou de son représentant un groupe d'experts connaissant une vaste gamme de cultures et de systèmes juridiques pour le conseiller à propos de telles interventions (sur leur opportunité, leur forme).

Le gouvernement du Canada reconnaît que c'est au niveau national que la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme peuvent être assurées de la manière la plus efficace. Il incombe aux gouvernements de promouvoir l'éducation dans le domaine des droits de l'homme et d'accroître l'accès aux documents s'y rapportant, de sorte que le citoyen connaisse mieux ses droits et en use. Le gouvernement du Canada appuie en outre les efforts du Service de l'information de l'Organisation des Nations Unies visant à produire des publications qui décrivent les instruments de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et ses activités dans le domaine des droits de l'homme. La délégation du Canada encourage une diffusion aussi vaste que possible de ces publications. Elle est d'avis que les droits de l'homme seraient mieux respectés si les instruments existant dans ce domaine étaient plus

et à établir des normes plus strictes. Nous tenons à les féliciter de leur engagement et sommes heureux de constater que la valeur de leurs efforts sera bientôt reconnue: en effet, un prix des Nations Unies dans le domaine des droits de la personne sera accordé à Amnesty International, au Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, à l'Union nationale des femmes de Tunisie, et à Vicaría de la Solidaridad.

La délégation du Canada est convaincue que les mécanismes onusiens améliorés feront beaucoup pour veiller au respect des règles internationales convenues en matière de droits de la personne. Les efforts déployés au cours des dernières années par l'Organisation témoignent d'un sentiment de solidarité renforcé chez les peuples dans la lutte qu'ils mènent pour veiller au respect et la liberté de chacun. La délégation du Canada s'engage à appuyer sans réserves et de façon continue les mesures que prendra l'ONU pour veiller au respect des droits et de la dignité fondamentale de tous.

3. AUTRES MOYENS DE PROMOUVOIR LES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

La déléguée du Canada, Mme Sylvia Gelber, a fait une déclaration devant la Troisième Commission de l'Assemblée générale au sujet des autres moyens de promouvoir les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales. Elle a d'abord discuté du droit et du devoir de tous les Etats membres de s'intéresser aux violations des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales. Elle a ensuite suggéré trois moyens par lesquels les Nations Unies pourraient assurer le respect des normes internationales acceptées en ce qui concerne les droits de l'homme. Mme Gelber a également parlé de l'appui du Canada au Comité des droits de l'homme et de l'intérêt que porte le Canada aux nombreuses propositions visant à améliorer la capacité du système des Nations Unies d'intercéder en faveur des victimes de violations des droits de l'homme. Elle a ensuite abordé l'importance de promouvoir et de protéger les droits de l'homme au niveau national ainsi que de la nécessité d'une participation plus large des Etats aux instruments existants relatifs aux droits de l'homme. Enfin, tout en promettant l'appui constant du Canada en ce qui concerne tous les efforts sérieux visant à faire avancer les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales, la déléguée du Canada a de nouveau souligné les obligations de la communauté internationale stipulées dans la Charte.

Lorsque l'Organisation des Nations Unies a été créée, il y a 33 ans, la question des droits de l'homme a été jugée d'un tel intérêt qu'elle a été inscrite pas moins de sept fois dans la Charte de la nouvelle organisation. Convaincus que les droits de la personne étaient une des responsabilités essentielles et légitimes de la Communauté internationale, les délégués qui ont rédigé la Charte y ont inclus à l'article premier comme l'un des objectifs fondamentaux de l'Organisation, la promotion du respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales.

La délégation et le gouvernement du Canada ont noté au cours des ans que certains Etats dont nous avons entendu les représentants ce matin continuent à soutenir que l'intérêt porté par la communauté internationale aux violations des droits de l'homme constitue une ingérence dans les affaires intérieures des Etats où se produisent ces violations. Cependant, en souscrivant à la Charte et à ses objectifs fondamentaux, tous les Etats membres ont reconnu qu'ils avaient le droit et le devoir de s'intéresser aux violations des droits de l'homme et des libertés

l'homme. Lorsque le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures du Canada a soulevé la question des droits de la personne au Kampuchea démocratique lors du débat général en séance plénière au début de la session, la délégation du Kampuchea, exerçant son droit de réplique, a laissé entendre que le Canada était animé de motifs politiques et partisans. Pour dissiper toute ambiguïté, s'il en est, j'aimerais déclarer pour mémoire que ce sont des préoccupations humanitaires partagées par maints Canadiens de toutes affiliations politiques en réaction aux violations flagrantes des droits de la personne par le Kampuchea démocratique qui nous ont amenés à déposer un rapport devant la Commission des droits de l'homme et à soulever cette question dans des instances publiques. À exprimer notre inquiétude devant ces violations des droits de la personne, nous ne prenons position sur aucun autre aspect des relations internes ou externes du Kampuchea démocratique, pas plus que nous ne nions l'existence d'autres graves violations de ces droits dans d'autres parties du monde.

Ces derniers mois, l'afflux de réfugiés en provenance du Vietnam, du Cambodge et du Laos s'est chiffré à bien plus de 10 000 personnes par mois. Ces mouvements importants et tragiques d'êtres humains, qui ont des répercussions internationales d'une extrême gravité, ne peuvent être dissociés de la conjoncture intérieure, y compris des considérations liées aux droits de la personne et au développement social, dans les pays victimes de l'exode. La situation des réfugiés pose à la communauté internationale un problème moral d'une envergure et d'une urgence considérable. Si la communauté internationale est obligée d'y répondre, elle doit sûrement avoir aussi le droit de chercher des solutions aux racines de ces problèmes. Beaucoup de pays de cette région sont en butte à des difficultés quasi insurmontables qui ne sont pas de leur création, et qui résultent plutôt de mesures internes ou de politiques adoptées par certains pays d'exode voisins. Les pays d'accueil de la région et d'autres États, comme le Canada, qui ont réagi au malheur des réfugiés, ont le droit de prôner et, de fait, d'exiger le respect intégral des droits fondamentaux des citoyens des pays victimes de l'exode.

Beaucoup trop d'États négligent leur obligation aux termes de la Charte, c'est-à-dire de veiller au respect des droits de toutes les personnes qui se trouvent à l'intérieur de leurs frontières. Les règles fixées par la Charte et d'autres instruments des Nations Unies en matière de droits de la personne sont rigoureuses, mais, peu importent les orientations économiques et sociales que ces gouvernements sont libres d'adopter, ils ne peuvent bafouer les droits de la personne que leur appartenance à l'ONU leur impose de défendre. En fait, il semblerait que les interventions de la communauté internationale contre les violations flagrantes et constantes des droits de la personne commencent à avoir des effets heureux. Une publicité accrue a mis en lumière les problèmes des dissidents et des groupes de dissidents, dissuadant ainsi les gouvernements qui ont depuis longtemps l'habitude de prendre avec rapidité des mesures de rétorsion brutale d'exercer des représailles contre ceux qui parlent suivant leur conscience. Il a été reconnu que le problème des prisonniers politiques constitue une des préoccupations légitimes de l'ONU, et l'attention de la communauté internationale est maintenant braquée sur une des facettes de ce problème: les prisonniers politiques syndicaux. Nous déployons également des efforts en vue d'éliminer la torture et de promouvoir la liberté de culte et de croyance. Ce sont des organisations non gouvernementales qui sont au premier plan des campagnes destinées à mettre les violations en lumière

2. LA POSITION DU CANADA SUR LES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

L'ambassadeur M. Roger Rousseau a exposé dans ses lignes générales la position du Canada sur les droits de la personne le 7 décembre 1978 à la troisième Commission de l'Assemblée générale. M. Rousseau a parlé de la prérogative des États de se préoccuper des violations des droits de la personne. Il a aussi fait mention des situations au Chili et au Kampuchea démocratique au chapitre des droits de la personne et a discuté du problème des réfugiés indochinois. L'ambassadeur Rousseau a réitéré l'appui sans réserves et continu du Canada aux mesures que prendra l'ONU pour veiller au respect des droits de la personne et a exprimé le vœu que des améliorations soient apportées aux mécanismes onusiens pour assurer la dignité et la liberté de tous.

La position du Canada en ce qui a trait aux droits de la personne comme composantes des relations internationales est claire et sans équivoque. La Charte des Nations Unies stipule que l'un des principaux objectifs de l'Organisation consiste à promouvoir et à encourager le respect des droits de la personne. En adhérant à la Charte, le Canada et tous les autres États membres se sont donc solennellement engagés à appuyer ces objectifs. En conséquence, nous continuons de récuser l'allégation selon laquelle les droits de la personne relèvent de la compétence nationale et échappent à celle de la communauté internationale. Le Canada s'est fait le promoteur vigoureux aussi bien des règles exposées dans les principaux instruments internationaux en matière de droits de la personne que des mécanismes de contrôle destinés à les traduire dans les faits. L'appui que nous donnons au principe du respect des droits de la personne agit dans deux directions qui se renforcent mutuellement: tout en prônant un plus grand respect des droits de la personne à l'échelle internationale, nous assumons librement des obligations qui nous engagent en droit à déployer des efforts avec autant de diligence possible au palier national.

Au cours des trois dernières décennies, le bilan de l'ONU dans le domaine des droits de la personne n'a pas été à la hauteur des attentes des artisans de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Malgré la création de nombreux instruments, l'écart est grand entre les règles théoriques et les réalisations concrètes. Cette critique est d'autant plus vraie dans le cas des violations flagrantes et constantes des droits de la personne. Le gouvernement du Canada estime que toute abrogation grave des droits de la personne - qu'il s'agisse de droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, ou civils et politiques - mérite notre attention. Toutefois, il convient et il importe de focaliser des efforts spéciaux sur les cas où les allégations de violations flagrantes et constantes sont attestées de source sûre.

Même si nous devons conclure que la situation au Chili en ce qui concerne les droits de la personne laisse encore à désirer, il faudrait féliciter les autorités chiliennes d'avoir accordé le droit de séjour au Groupe de travail spécial et facilité sa tâche. Nous y voyons un précédent important dans le cadre des efforts déployés par l'ONU dans le secteur des droits de la personne et une autre étape en vue de la création de pratiques plus uniformes et non partissanes en matière de rapports, d'enquêtes et d'établissement des faits. La délégation du Canada espère que des mesures analogues, de nature humanitaire, puissent être prises pour remédier à la situation qui règne à l'heure actuelle au Kampuchea démocratique. Un certain nombre d'organisations et d'États, dont le Canada, ont monté des dossiers faisant état de violations des droits de la personne qu'ils ont présentés à la Commission des droits de

face aux violations flagrantes des droits les plus fondamentaux qui se sont produites pendant et immédiatement avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Ce fut là le catalyseur qui a préparé l'opinion publique internationale et qui a permis aux Nations Unies d'entreprendre ce programme révolutionnaire de protection des droits de la personne. Le sujet suscite maintenant dans la plupart des régions du monde un intérêt inégalé, même si les droits de la personne peuvent ne pas être toujours respectés. Permettez-moi de ne mentionner que les trois exemples les plus frappants : les attitudes actuelles face aux questions de la discrimination raciale et de la promotion de la femme, et l'acceptation généralisée du principe voulant que les droits économiques et politiques soient aussi importants que les droits civils et politiques traditionnels. On accepte maintenant universellement cette nouvelle moralité, cette moralité internationale. Les droits de la personne sont même devenus une composante de la politique étrangère de certains États. Cette évolution des comportements n'est pas le fruit du hasard, mais probablement de plusieurs facteurs sociaux; l'un d'eux a sans doute été l'adoption de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et cette Assemblée peut en tirer un certain mérite. La Déclaration a eu un impact moral et éducatif considérable : en dernière analyse, c'est peut-être l'aboutissement le plus important de la décision prise par l'Assemblée le 10 décembre 1948.

La Déclaration se voulait tout cela et a réalisé ses objectifs. Elle est peut-être même devenue quelque chose de plus important. L'Assemblée générale et les autres organismes n'ont pas tardé à utiliser la Déclaration comme une norme pour juger la conduite des États dans leurs relations avec leurs citoyens et citoyennes et avec certains groupes d'individus. Dans nombre de ses résolutions, l'Assemblée a affirmé que la Déclaration devait être strictement observée ou l'a invoquée lorsqu'elle condamnait un État pour des violations à ses obligations aux termes des dispositions de la Charte relatives aux droits de la personne. La Déclaration sert bon nombre d'années à interpréter les dispositions de la Charte relatives aux droits de la personne; à tel point qu'on peut maintenant affirmer qu'indépendamment des intentions de ses auteurs, la Déclaration universelle de 1948 - ou en tout cas ses composantes justiciables - fait maintenant partie du droit international public et lie par conséquent tous les États. Si tel est le cas, la réalisation que nous célébrons aujourd'hui est bien plus grande encore et, j'ajouterais, bien plus révolutionnaire que ce que quiconque aurait pu concevoir dans la nuit du 10 décembre 1948. Mais qu'il en soit ainsi ou non - et je vois une nécessité logique au fait qu'il en soit ainsi - la Déclaration universelle reste un instrument de la plus haute importance morale et politique qui précise sans équivoque les conditions nécessaires au respect de la dignité et des aspirations de la personne; elle est une norme que doivent s'efforcer d'atteindre tous les peuples et toutes les nations ainsi qu'un gage d'espoir en l'avenir.

D. DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

1. LE TRENTIÈME ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA DÉCLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

A l'occasion du trentième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, le professeur John P. Humphrey, O.C., conseiller spécial de la délégation du Canada, a fait une déclaration en plénière à l'Assemblée générale le 11 décembre 1978. Il a traité de l'adoption et de l'évolution de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme ayant été lui-même membre de la Division des droits de l'homme du Secrétariat des Nations Unies au moment de l'adoption de la Déclaration. Le professeur Humphrey a également discuté de la Déclaration sur le droit international et de l'aspect révolutionnaire de la Déclaration lors de son adoption et même à l'heure actuelle. Enfin il a souligné l'importance que revêt la Déclaration pour juger la conduite des États envers leurs citoyens et pour interpréter les dispositions de la Charte des Nations Unies relative aux droits de la personne.

Je suis heureux de cette occasion qui m'est donnée de prendre la parole, et j'en profite pour remercier le gouvernement du Canada de m'avoir invité à faire partie de sa délégation, le temps d'un débat. Je dois ce privilège au fait que j'étais membre de la Division des droits de l'homme du Secrétariat de cette Organisation lorsque la Déclaration universelle a été adoptée, et aussi au fait que j'ai survécu à ces trente années, ce dont je suis redevable à mon patrimoine génétique. Je pourrais fort bien être la seule personne ici présente à s'être trouvée au Palais de Chaillot lorsque l'Assemblée générale a adopté la Déclaration dans la nuit du 10 décembre 1948.

La Déclaration universelle a peut-être été le facteur le plus important de cette transformation radicale du droit international à laquelle on assiste depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La portée et la nature du droit international ont tellement évolué depuis trente ou quarante ans que le terme ne décrit plus adéquatement une discipline qui devrait maintenant s'appeler le "droit mondial". Aucune autre révolution dans l'histoire de la pensée n'a été plus marquante que cette transformation radicale de la nature du droit international traditionnel. Quelles qu'aient été les intentions de ses auteurs, la Déclaration est aussi un document révolutionnaire en cela même qu'elle fournit soutien et encouragement dans chaque cas où des hommes et des femmes luttent pour défendre leurs libertés devant l'oppression. La Déclaration contient de la dynamique révolutionnaire; depuis son adoption, il est probable qu'aucun conflit social et politique n'ait échappé à son influence. C'était la première déclaration universelle du genre et c'est dans cet instrument qu'on voyait pour la première fois reconnue et proclamée l'existence de certains droits économiques et sociaux ayant même valeur que les droits civils et politiques traditionnels; voilà qui, dans le contexte de 1948, était vraiment révolutionnaire. Ce seul élément suffirait pour assurer à la Déclaration une place dans l'histoire.

Trente ans après son adoption, la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme exerce toujours une influence morale et politique inégale par quelque autre instrument international que ce soit, à l'exception peut-être de la Charte elle-même. Tout comme l'intégration à la Charte mise en application ultérieures des Pactes, l'adoption de la Déclaration s'inscrivait dans le sillon d'une réaction de la communauté mondiale

Le Canada appuie l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le principe connexe du maintien des réserves céréalières. Nous croyons que les modalités relatives à ces réserves devraient être arrêtées dans le cadre d'un nouvel accord international sur le blé; on pourrait de cette manière harmoniser dans une large mesure les besoins en matière de sécurité alimentaire et la stabilité du marché. Nous estimons que si les bénéfices sont partagés par tous, il devrait en être de même pour les coûts. A l'heure actuelle, ce sont les exportateurs qui doivent assumer les coûts de constitution des stocks de réserve; en toute équité, les importateurs, spécialement ceux des pays développés, devraient assumer une partie de ces coûts. Il est impossible d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire sans maintenir de façon continue des niveaux de production élevés. Les agriculteurs sont sensibles aux stimulants commerciaux et, si l'on veut augmenter la production et améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, il est impératif que les producteurs tirent des revenus adéquats de leurs efforts.

Aide alimentaire et réserves alimentaires internationales de crise

Le Canada appuie le chiffre minimal annuel de dix millions de tonnes de céréales comme objectif pour une convention d'aide alimentaire qui serait incorporée à un nouvel accord international sur le blé, sous réserve que les nouveaux donateurs éventuels soient encouragés à contribuer à la poursuite de cet objectif et que les donateurs traditionnels soient prêts à majorer leurs engagements. Nous avons également accepté les recommandations du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation visant à donner un caractère permanent à la réserve internationale de crise. Le Canada a déjà fourni une aide substantielle à la réserve, dont l'objectif de 500,000 tonnes est presque atteint à l'heure actuelle.

Nous désirons aussi exprimer notre gratitude au FISE pour le soutien apporté aux organisations non gouvernementales, et plus spécialement à l'association canadienne de santé publique ainsi qu'à la fédération mondiale des associations de santé publique. De même, le travail du FISE en tant "qu'âme dirigeante" de l'année internationale de l'enfant constitue une autre preuve du rôle dynamique qu'elle assume au profit de l'enfance. À l'évidence, l'année internationale de l'enfant entraînera des conséquences importantes pour tous les pays, mais elle devrait également servir à polariser l'attention de la communauté internationale sur les moyens d'améliorer de façon significative les services de base offerts aux enfants.

Programme alimentaire mondial

Le Canada est un ardent défenseur du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM). Nous le considérons comme l'un des plus éclatants succès au sein du système des Nations Unies. Nous croyons qu'un grand nombre de pays partagent notre confiance dans le programme, et la hausse sensible des contributions qui l'accompagne l'évolution du PAM au fil des ans vient étayer cette conviction. Fait à remarquer, le programme a toujours su, tant en périodes d'abondance qu'en périodes de disette, disposer de manière constructive des produits au bénéfice des populations pauvres dans les pays en développement. Nous savons que, tout en fournissant cette aide aux plus démunis, le programme a pu amener les bénéficiaires à participer directement aux efforts visant à améliorer leur propre situation. Les stimulants que fournit le PAM à cette fin sont précieux et la motivation que génèrent ses activités dans les secteurs des projets de travail rémunéré en vives, et des denrées acheminées aux groupes vulnérables, mérite une reconnaissance spéciale. Nous sommes d'appliquer des techniques d'évaluation et qu'il coopère de façon constructive avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies.

Problèmes alimentaires: rapport du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation

Le gouvernement du Canada attache une importance toute particulière au travail accompli par le Conseil en sa qualité de comité supérieur de révision des politiques alimentaires. C'est pourquoi le Canada sera très heureux d'être l'hôte de la prochaine session du Conseil en 1979.

Production alimentaire

Nous faisons notre part pour aider à accroître la production alimentaire dans les pays les plus pauvres en intensifiant la portion de nos programmes d'aide bilatéraux consacrée à l'agriculture et en nous engageant à verser 33 millions de dollars au Fonds international de développement agricole au cours des trois premières années de son existence. Nous sommes conscients de l'importance d'augmenter la production alimentaire dans les pays les moins développés et nous avons en conséquence accordé une haute priorité au développement agricole et rural dans notre programme d'aide au développement, tant sur le plan bilatéral que multilatéral. Néanmoins, le Canada continue d'entretenir des réserves quant à l'opportunité et à l'utilité de fixer des objectifs d'aide extérieure, comme les 8,3 milliards de dollars.

L'ambassadeur M. Roger Rousseau a prononcé une allocution devant la Deuxième Commission (économique et financière) de l'Assemblée générale le 14 novembre 1978. En tant que donateur au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), au Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE), au Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) et aux autres organismes onusiens qui fournissent de l'aide technique aux pays en développement, le Canada s'intéresse à ce que ces programmes fonctionnent aussi efficacement que possible. En outre, M. Rousseau a parlé du travail du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui convoquera sa prochaine réunion à Ottawa en septembre 1979.

Le Canada continue d'appuyer énergiquement les activités opérationnelles pour le développement au sein du système des Nations Unies, car elles se révèlent l'un des moyens les plus directs de traduire concrètement et de façon réaliste les idées et principes exprimés dans cette enceinte. Le débat annuel sur ce point devrait toujours constituer une nouvelle marque dans notre lutte pour établir des normes mondiales de dignité humaine.

PNUD

La vingt-cinquième session du Conseil d'administration du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) a réitéré la période de consolidation qui s'est instaurée depuis les crises financières. Ma délégation, au sein de la présente intervention, désire exprimer sa satisfaction devant les nombreuses mesures adoptées par l'administrateur pour renforcer le programme. Le gouvernement du Canada considère comme fondamentale cette question de la qualité des programmes et de l'utilisation efficace des ressources; c'est pourquoi nous espérons que l'on produira à ce sujet un document sérieux et de grande portée, afin que le conseil et les gouvernements membres puissent: a) s'acquitter adéquatement de leurs responsabilités au chapitre des ressources et des objectifs du PNUD en matière de développement; b) renforcer le rôle central que joue le PNUD à titre de coordonnateur de l'assistance technique à la fois au sein du système de développement des Nations Unies et par le biais de contacts avec d'autres organisations d'aide multilatérale et bilatérale; et c) tirer profit de l'expérience du PNUD au chapitre de l'aide au développement et améliorer leurs propres programmes de développement, que ce soit à titre de pays donateurs ou bénéficiaires.

FISE

Le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE) occupe une place de choix dans le coeur des Canadiens. Outre qu'il exécute efficacement des projets d'aide au développement qui bénéficient directement aux enfants, le FISE s'est révélé à la fois au sein du système des Nations Unies et dans le monde le promoteur de la nécessité de mettre les enfants au premier plan de nos efforts en matière de développement. D'ailleurs, la contribution apportée par cet organe à la préparation et au suivi de la conférence internationale sur les soins de santé primaires, tenue en Union soviétique en septembre, témoigne au premier chef de ce rôle d'animation. La conférence a permis à la Communauté internationale de mieux saisir le concept des soins de santé primaires et de prendre davantage conscience de la nécessité d'appuyer à l'échelle mondiale les programmes nationaux dans ce domaine.

Pour beaucoup de pays en développement, l'expansion dynamique de la production agricole a sérieusement entravé l'évolution économique et sociale de ces pays. En tant que grand producteur et exportateur de denrées, le Canada a été à l'avant-garde des efforts visant à assainir la situation alimentaire mondiale. Ces efforts trouveront un nouvel élan lors de la cinquième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation que le Canada aura l'honneur d'accueillir l'an prochain.

La mise en valeur des ressources énergétiques

Le rôle essentiel que joue depuis quelques années l'énergie dans toutes les économies nationales a braqué l'attention sur les avantages que pourraient éventuellement tirer les pays en développement d'une mise en valeur plus rapide de leurs propres ressources énergétiques. Leur utilisation plus rationnelle aurait pour effet de réduire les importations et permettrait immédiatement à de nombreux pays en développement d'épargner des devises. On reconnaît chaque jour davantage la nécessité d'une meilleure coopération internationale en vue de faciliter la recherche, l'exploitation et l'exploitation des ressources énergétiques conventionnelles et non conventionnelles. Lors d'une récente réunion du Comité conjoint du développement du Fonds monétaire et de la Banque mondiale, le Canada a pris certaines initiatives pour faire avancer davantage cet important dossier. Le Canada favorise également la tenue d'une conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergie nouvelle et renouvelable. On devrait mettre l'accent sur les techniques énergétiques susceptibles d'une application pratique et rapide dans les pays en développement.

Nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement

La formulation d'une nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement revêt une importance capitale en ce qu'elle établit le cadre au sein duquel la communauté internationale déploie ses efforts de coopération. Le but est de parvenir à des objectifs approuvés quant à la voie à suivre dans le processus de résolution des problèmes du développement. Le Canada recommande une approche différente de celle adoptée lors des décennies précédentes. Nous devons nous demander quels changements de politique et de stratégie pourraient avoir les meilleurs résultats sur le plan mondial. On aurait peut-être intérêt à adopter une perspective à plus long terme que l'on pourra modifier en cours de route en fonction de la situation économique ainsi que des innovations techniques et sociales.

Il faudrait se concentrer sur la mise en valeur de secteurs tels que l'agriculture, les matières premières, les ressources énergétiques et les services essentiels. La stratégie devrait prendre en considération le milieu et la capacité d'expansion continue de transferts des ressources, et les limites et les contraintes qui s'imposent sur de tels transferts. De surcroît, il faut s'assurer que la stratégie soit écrite de manière à obtenir l'appui et le soutien de l'opinion publique. Ce soutien dans tous les pays est nécessaire pour que les gouvernements puissent affecter les ressources et effectuer les changements de politique qu'appelle la réalisation de la stratégie.

Le délégué du Canada auprès de la Deuxième Commission (économique et financière) de l'Assemblée générale, M. Roger Kousseau, actuellement ambassadeur du Canada au Venezuela, a énoncé le 27 octobre 1978 l'optique du Canada en ce qui concerne la coopération économique internationale et le dialogue nord-sud. Il a souligné la nécessité d'accélérer l'essor des pays en développement en prenant des mesures énergiques dans les domaines du commerce, de l'aide, du transfert des techniques, de l'énergie et dans l'élaboration d'une nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement.

Selon le dernier rapport sur le développement dans le monde que vient de publier la Banque mondiale, il subsiste de nombreux problèmes qui exigeront une coopération sans précédent si l'on veut opérer des changements qui bénéficieront aux populations plus démunies.

Nombre d'orateurs ont insisté sur le peu de progrès accompli en vue de résoudre les problèmes des pays en développement. Dans le processus d'évolution politique permanente que nous connaissons, il ne faut pas manquer les occasions qui nous sont données pour parvenir à des progrès concrets dans un esprit de coopération. L'assainissement du climat économique international favorisera ces possibilités. Une assise économique plus solide nous incitera davantage à réaliser les changements structurels nécessaires pour favoriser une répartition plus rationnelle des activités économiques entre les nations. Les pays industrialisés, qui consacrent beaucoup d'énergie à améliorer leur performance économique, constatent quelques signes encourageants. Il est exact que des changements s'imposent dans le cadre du système économique international et que nous devons avancer en ce sens, mais il est tout aussi vrai qu'une évolution parfois difficile est nécessaire au chapitre des politiques internes des pays industrialisés et des pays en développement. Il faut poursuivre nos efforts en vue d'accroître les échanges internationaux en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur les besoins du monde en développement. Comme l'ont rappelé nombre de délégués, il est important que les pays industrialisés adoptent des mesures d'aide nationale de transition qui deviendront toujours plus utiles au fur et à mesure que s'intensifient les échanges internationaux. Il y a d'ailleurs lieu de remarquer que les pays industrialisés accroissent rapidement leurs exportations vers le Tiers Monde, notamment dans le secteur des produits manufacturés.

Tous les pays en développement ne profitent pas d'un accès élargi aux marchés. Certains d'entre eux ont des problèmes de nature différente qui ne peuvent se régler par des stratégies axées prioritairement sur l'exportation, mais sur l'aide. Nous tendons toujours vers l'objectif du 0,7 pour cent du produit national brut. Nous invitons encore une fois les pays en position excédentaire à intensifier leurs efforts et nous accueillons avec satisfaction certaines mesures récentes en ce sens. Au chapitre de la libération de l'aide au développement, le Canada a converti en subventions les montants que lui devaient les pays les moins développés, et c'est cette forme d'aide qu'ils recevront dorénavant. Nous sommes heureux que d'autres pays donateurs aient agi de la même façon. Nous nous joignons à eux pour inviter les pays industrialisés qui ne l'ont pas déjà fait à ajuster rétroactivement les modalités d'octroi de leur aide aux pays en développement.

territoire canadien en éparpillant des débris, dont certains étaient radioactifs, sur une grande portion du nord canadien. En soulignant cette question à ce moment, et plus tard au sein du Sous-comité juridique, nous voulions attirer l'attention sur les conséquences internationales de l'incident, puisqu'il touche tous les pays, et proposer des mesures pour l'élaboration d'un régime international de normes de sécurité destiné à régir l'utilisation des génératrices nucléaires dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Dans cette intention, nous avons fait un certain nombre de propositions.

Nous sommes heureux de constater qu'un grand nombre de ces propositions ont recueilli de larges appuis au Comité de l'espace extra-atmosphérique et que, lors de la 21^e session, ses membres ont convenu de créer, dans le cadre du Sous-comité scientifique et technique, un groupe de travail composé de spécialistes chargés d'étudier les aspects techniques et les mesures de sécurité touchant l'utilisation des génératrices nucléaires dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Par suite du consensus qui s'est dégagé au Comité de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, nous espérons que cet organisme approuvera cette décision de manière à ce que le groupe de travail puisse se réunir en février prochain, lors de la 16^e session du Sous-comité scientifique et technique. Le rapport du Comité de l'espace extra-atmosphérique renferme également une demande visant à ce que les États de lancement prévoient les États menacés par un objet spatial en perdition porteur de génératrice nucléaire et susceptible de rentrer dans l'atmosphère. Monsieur le Président, nous estimons que ces recommandations, présentées par consensus par le Comité de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, démontrent que l'ONU reconnaît l'importance de cette grave question internationale et qu'elles tracent le cadre d'une action constructive qui bénéficiera à tous les pays. Nous appuyons vigoureusement ces recommandations et espérons que tous les États membres joindront leurs efforts à cette entreprise commune destinée à réduire au minimum les risques que présente à l'humanité et à l'environnement l'utilisation de génératrices nucléaires dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique.

Toutefois, il est un domaine en particulier où nous regrettons le manque de progrès. Il s'agit de l'impasse dans laquelle se trouve la question de la radiodiffusion directe par satellite (RDS). Pendant de nombreuses années, la délégation du Canada, de concert avec d'autres délégations, s'est attachée à élaborer des principes destinés à régir la RDS. Pourtant, il n'a pas été possible de progresser davantage dans la rédaction de ces principes lors des sessions de 1978 du Sous-comité juridique et du Comité parapluié. Nous osons espérer que cette situation ne se reproduira pas l'année prochaine.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais déclarer que la délégation du Canada sera très heureuse de coparrainer la résolution d'ensemble sur les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique qui sera présentée en cette Commission par mon distingué collègue de la délégation de l'Australie. Des progrès seront réalisés pendant l'année qui vient grâce à l'orientation claire que donne cette résolution. Pour sa part, le Canada s'engage à collaborer sans réserve à cette entreprise collective.

L'équipe pourrait se rendre au siège d'organismes spécialisés et d'autres organisations internationales, aussi bien en Europe que dans un certain nombre de pays donateurs et pays hôtes en Afrique.

7. UTILISATIONS PACIFIQUES DE L'ESPACE EXTRA-ATMOSPHERIQUE

M. Maurice Dupras, député, représentant du Canada, a fait une déclaration au nom du Canada à la Commission politique spéciale de l'Assemblée générale le 17 octobre 1978 sur les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Il a d'abord décrit le programme spatial du Canada et a abordé la question de la participation canadienne à la collaboration internationale pour l'utilisation et l'application pacifiques des satellites. Ensuite, M. Dupras a traité du rapport du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, COSMOS 954, qui s'était écrasé en territoire canadien et fait mention du manque de progrès sur la question de la radiodiffusion directe par satellite. Enfin, il a déclaré que le Canada voudrait coparticiper une résolution présentée par l'Australie sur les utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Voici la déclaration faite par M. Dupras au sujet des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique.

Notre objectif premier est le perfectionnement des télécommunications par satellite. Trois satellites canadiens Anik sont maintenant en service et assurent un service de télécommunications aux collectivités éloignées du Canada; par ailleurs, un satellite Anik B, le premier d'une nouvelle génération, doit être lancé le mois prochain. Le satellite technologique de télécommunications canado-américain connu sous le nom d'Hermès, s'est révélé un succès puisque de nombreuses expériences ont été menées et que l'on envisage de le maintenir en service une troisième année. Notre autre grand secteur d'activité est la télédétection des ressources terrestres. Le Canada et beaucoup d'autres pays à travers le monde ont utilement tiré profit du programme Landsat. En outre, nous avons récemment conclu un accord avec les Etats-Unis prévoyant la conduite d'expériences conjointes au Canada grâce au satellite pilote Seasat, destiné à vérifier les possibilités de surveillance maritime par satellite. La station réceptrice de Shoe Cove à Terre-Neuve a été aménagée pour recueillir des données obtenues à l'aide de senseurs sur les régions de l'Atlantique du Nord-Ouest et de l'Est du Canada.

A l'échelon international, le Canada participe activement à l'élargissement de la coopération au regard de l'utilisation et de l'application pacifiques des satellites. Nous cherchons à augmenter la qualité et l'importance de nos relations avec l'Agence spatiale européenne; nous discutons actuellement des modes de coopération internationale en matière de recherche et de sauvetage; nous participons à des projets d'aide au développement international. Nous croyons fermement que c'est dans la collaboration internationale que progressera le mieux la technologie spatiale.

Je voudrais maintenant traiter du rapport du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l'espace extra-atmosphérique dont est saisie la Commission. De notre point de vue, la 21^e session du Comité a été des plus fructueuses. Les membres n'ignorent pas que le Canada a soulevé aux Nations Unies la question de l'utilisation des génératrices nucléaires dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique lors de la réunion de février du Sous-comité scientifique et technique, tenue peu après que le satellite à alimentation nucléaire COSMOS 954 se fut écrasé en

des problèmes financiers. M. Barton a également élaboré deux propositions émanant du Comité consultatif afin de renforcer le Programme. Voici donc des extraits de la déclaration faite par M. Barton sur le Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe.

Depuis sa création en 1968, le Programme a été très utile en accordant des bourses à des jeunes de l'Afrique du Sud, de la Rhodésie et de la Namibie qui, après avoir acquis la formation nécessaire, fourniront à leur pays la main-d'œuvre qualifiée qui leur permettra d'accéder à l'indépendance et d'instaurer la règle de la majorité. En outre, le Programme continue d'accorder des bourses à des étudiants de l'Angola, du Cap-Vert, de la Guinée-Bissau, du Mozambique et de Sao Tomé-et-Principe. Depuis le début du Programme, 21 Etats ont offert des bourses à des étudiants d'Afrique australe pour qu'ils acquièrent une formation dans leur propre pays. Parmi les boursiers de l'UNEPISA, 56 pour cent suivent des cours dans des universités africaines. Les autres fréquentent des établissements en Asie, en Europe et en Amérique du Nord en raison des limites de la capacité d'accueil d'étudiants étrangers dans un grand nombre d'établissements africains et de l'existence de besoins en formation dans des domaines où les universités africaines n'oeuvrent pas.

Toutefois, Monsieur le Président, il y aurait omission de ma part si je n'évoquais pas les problèmes financiers auxquels continue à faire face le Programme par suite du flux ininterrompu de jeunes de l'Afrique australe qui cherchent à obtenir l'asile politique et des possibilités de s'inscrire dans des Etats voisins. En raison de la conjoncture politique en Afrique du Sud, en Rhodésie et en Namibie, le Programme a reçu 3 082 demandes de candidats qualifiés en 1977-1978, ce qui représente un accroissement de 53 pour cent par rapport à l'année précédente. En outre, le coût moyen d'une bourse dans les divers pays d'accueil a presque doublé, ce qui a imposé un fardeau financier au Programme, qui a dû, à l'occasion, octroyer des bourses partielles de façon à venir en aide au plus grand nombre possible de candidats. Sans laisser entendre, Monsieur le Président, que le programme devrait s'amplifier indéfiniment, je crois que tous les gouvernements intéressés doivent faire davantage d'efforts si l'on tient à ce que le programme remplisse sa mission, c'est-à-dire permettre à des jeunes de l'Afrique australe d'avoir accès à des possibilités d'instruction et de formation qui leur seraient fermées autrement.

Monsieur le Président, le Comité consultatif du Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe a décidé, lors de sa vingt-sixième réunion tenue le 30 octobre 1978, que, vu l'exode de nombreux jeunes étudiants d'Afrique australe dans les Etats voisins, et vu l'accroissement de la taille et de la portée du Programme, il serait souhaitable de renforcer une fois de plus le Programme en nommant au sein du comité consultatif un petit nombre de nouveaux membres choisis par le Président de l'Assemblée générale. A cet égard, on pourrait choisir de nouveaux membres parmi les principaux pays donateurs et pays d'accueil des étudiants qui participent à ce Programme.

Comme la situation s'est modifiée dans toute l'Afrique australe depuis la première évaluation locale du Programme qui a eu lieu en 1975, le Comité a aussi décidé de demander à l'Assemblée générale de nommer une équipe de quatre ou cinq membres chargés, de concert avec le Secrétaire général, de procéder à une deuxième évaluation locale du Programme et d'offrir de meilleures possibilités éducationnelles pour ainsi répondre aux demandes croissantes que subissent les ressources du Programme.

Le Canada est toujours d'avis qu'une application efficace des sanctions contre la Rhodésie est l'un des grands moyens dont dispose la communauté internationale pour faire pression sur le régime illégal. Nous sommes donc vivement préoccupés par certaines allégations récentes voulant que les sanctions ne soient pas appliquées avec toute la vigilance et la détermination que supposait à l'origine l'adoption de mesures globales. Nous nous réjouissons de ce que les États-Unis d'Amérique aient jugé bon, en mars dernier, d'adopter une loi invalidant l'amendement Byrd et, par conséquent, de colmater l'une des grandes brèches qui empêchaient depuis 1971 la mise en oeuvre d'un programme de sanctions pleinement efficace. Le récent rapport Bingham sur l'approvisionnement de la Rhodésie en pétrole et en produits pétroliers nous inquiète toutefois par ses révélations sur les moyens trouvés pour contourner l'embargo. Le gouvernement du Royaume-Uni se penche actuellement sur cette étude en vue de déterminer les mesures légales appropriées; il se peut d'ailleurs que son examen de la question jette davantage de lumière sur l'importance de la brèche mise à jour. Ces mesures économiques ne pourront manifestement pas avoir l'effet souhaité tant et aussi longtemps que l'Afrique du Sud refusera de collaborer à la mise en oeuvre des sanctions contre le régime illégal. Les autorités canadiennes sont disposées à se pencher attentivement sur toute suggestion visant une imposition plus rigoureuse des sanctions pétrolières afin d'assurer qu'elles atteignent l'objectif visé.

Monsieur le Président, le Canada a appuyé depuis le début l'initiative anglo-américaine visant à pacifier le Zimbabwe par un passage graduel à la règle de la majorité qui se ferait sous contrôle international et appellerait la participation de tous les résidents du Zimbabwe. Même si nous maintenons ferme notre appui, nous sommes quelque peu découragés par l'apparente ambiguïté des propos tenus par les membres du Conseil multiracial ainsi que par leur attitude face à une conférence élargie qui permettrait d'engager de véritables négociations en vue d'appliquer dans les meilleurs délais le plan anglo-américain. À l'instar de la plupart des autres membres de la quatrième Commission, nous sommes frustrés de cette hésitation persistante à engager des négociations réalistes et nous sommes irrités par la sauvagerie qui marque les opérations militaires pendant que l'on continue de se dire ouvert à toute solution pacifique.

La communauté internationale doit maintenir et renforcer sa détermination de mettre un terme à la violence, à l'agression, à la torture et au meurtre; il faut encourager le Front patriotique à collaborer dans le cadre de la formule anglo-américaine et faire comprendre aux membres du Conseil multiracial que la poursuite d'actes de violence provoqués par le désespoir ne peut qu'entraîner leur chute. Il faut faire comprendre à M. Smith et à ses collègues que les négociations prévues dans le plan anglo-américain sont le seul espoir auquel peut se rattacher la population du Zimbabwe, même à court terme.

6. PROGRAMME D'ENSEIGNEMENT ET DE FORMATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE

M. William H. Barton, ambassadeur et représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies, a fait une déclaration le 21 novembre 1978 à la quatrième Commission de l'Assemblée générale au sujet du Programme d'enseignement et de formation des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique australe ((L'UNEP/SA), dont il est le président du Comité consultatif. Il a présenté un exposé sur le Programme depuis sa création en 1968. Malgré les récents résultats très encourageants, le Programme connaît toujours

modification de la politique d'Israël concernant la construction d'abris pour les familles dont les habitations avaient été démolies en juillet et en août 1971. On se souviendra que les forces d'occupation israéliennes ont rasé en 1971 les abris de 2 554 familles afin de doter les camps de routes d'accès, ce qui a donné lieu à la résolution 32/90/C réclamant notamment le retour des réfugiés intéressés dans les camps dont ils avaient été enlevés ainsi que la fourniture d'abris où ils puissent se loger de façon satisfaisante. L'an dernier, on relevait pour la première fois qu'Israël avait fourni gratuitement des logements à certaines des familles les plus éprouvées. À la lecture du rapport du Secrétaire général pour 1978 (A/33/285), nous constatons qu'Israël a offert des logements gratuits à un certain nombre d'autres familles dans la même situation. Nous espérons qu'Israël poursuivra cette politique et nous continuerons donc de nous abstenir sur des résolutions semblables à la résolution 32/90/C tant qu'il y aura des preuves tangibles de progrès.

Ceci dit, il faut souligner que l'UNRWA est un organisme apolitique qui réfile les préoccupations humanitaires de la communauté internationale en ce qui concerne le sort du peuple palestinien. J'aimerais donc laisser de côté les aspects politiques du problème et me concentrer sur ses aspects humanitaires.

L'UNRWA fournit trois grands services aux quelque 1.8 millions de personnes ayant le statut de réfugiés. Toutefois, comme le mentionne le Commissaire général dans son rapport, les critères varient selon la nature des services et moins de 17,5 % des réfugiés immatriculés sont autorisés à les recevoir tous. Selon le Commissaire général, les services d'enseignement, de secours et de santé offerts sont l'un des exemples les plus concrets de ce que peut réaliser la coopération internationale au service de l'amélioration de la condition humaine que poursuivent les Nations Unies. J'incite tous ceux qui contribuent généreusement à l'UNRWA à continuer à le faire, ceux qui peuvent donner davantage à être généreux et ceux qui ne donnent rien à être charitables et à fournir leur part. Mais avant tout, j'incite tous ceux qui peuvent contribuer à régler le problème fondamental à n'épargner aucun effort en vue de trouver une solution.

5. LA RHODÉSIE

M. P.A. Lapointe, ministre et représentant permanent adjoint, a énoncé la position du Canada sur la question de la Rhodésie durant la quatrième Commission de l'Assemblée générale, le 6 novembre 1978. Il a discuté de la situation en Rhodésie, de l'application efficace des sanctions et des propositions anglo-américaines en vue de réaliser une paix internationalement acceptable au Zimbabwe. Voici la déclaration de M. Lapointe sur la question de la Rhodésie.

Le climat dans lequel nous abordons encore une fois la question de la Rhodésie du Sud n'est pas propice. À certains égards, la situation s'est même envenimée depuis l'an dernier. Nous avons écouté avec intérêt la déclaration du délégué du Royaume-Uni et saluons les efforts constants que déploient les gouvernements britannique et américain en vue de trouver une solution à cette tragédie permanente. Ce faisant, nous ne minimisons toutefois pas les difficultés très réelles qui nous attendent dans l'avenir immédiat.

Le gouvernement du Canada étudie sérieusement depuis un an divers aspects du problème chypriote. Au cours des douze derniers mois par exemple, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, M. Jamieson, a visité la Grèce, Chypre et la Turquie et a eu des entretiens utiles avec les dirigeants politiques de ces pays. En outre, le ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Turquie, M. Okkun, vient de faire une visite à Ottawa. Nous sommes convaincus que ces diverses rencontres peuvent et doivent assurer la poursuite d'un dialogue utile au sein des Nations Unies et ailleurs. Nous espérons la reprise prochaine des négociations intercommunautaires, par l'intermédiaire des bons offices du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies. La délégation du Canada est d'avis qu'il incombe à l'Assemblée générale de favoriser ce processus et d'adopter à cet égard des résolutions que toutes les délégations peuvent appuyer et appliquer, et d'éviter tout langage susceptible d'accentuer les tensions politiques qui subsistent toujours malheureusement sur l'île de Chypre.

4. MOYEN-ORIENT

Dans une déclaration faite le 30 octobre 1978 à la Commission politique spéciale, M. Maurice Dupras, député, représentant du Canada, a révélé la politique canadienne à l'égard du Moyen-Orient et de l'office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient (UNRWA). M. Dupras a parlé de l'avvenir du peuple palestinien, du "Cadre de paix au Proche-Orient" accepté à Camp David et de la politique d'Israël concernant la construction d'abris pour les réfugiés de Palestine. Il a également exhorté les Etats membres des Nations Unies à appuyer le travail humanitaire de l'UNRWA. Voici donc la déclaration de M. Dupras sur la question du Moyen-Orient.

L'avvenir du peuple palestinien est au centre du problème au Moyen-Orient. Le gouvernement du Canada est d'avis que tout règlement pacifique doit tenir compte des revendications légitimes des Palestiniens et que ces derniers ont le droit de participer à toute négociation sur leur avenir. Le gouvernement du Canada croit en outre que l'expression politique des Palestiniens devrait s'appuyer sur des assises territoriales appropriées et négociées dans le cadre d'un règlement global. Sauf les points que je viens de mentionner, nous croyons que tous les éléments d'une paix juste et équitable au Moyen-Orient sont contenus dans les résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité.

Nous croyons que le "Cadre de paix au Proche-Orient" accepté à Camp David peut servir de base à une solution juste et équitable du problème. Ce cadre, loin de viser à régler toutes les questions en litige, veut plutôt fournir aux parties en cause les moyens de parvenir à une entente par le biais de la négociation. Nous comptons qu'avec de la bonne volonté, ces problèmes difficiles pourront être surmontés et que la paix tant recherchée verra le jour. Nous espérons que sera effectivement trouvée une solution qui réponde aux attentes du peuple palestinien.

Nous nous attendons à ce que l'une des résolutions que nous étudierons soit semblable à la résolution 32/90/C sur les réfugiés de Palestine dans la bande de Gaza. Vous vous rappellerez que ma délégation avait l'an dernier modifié son vote sur cette résolution. Nous avions auparavant voté en faveur de la résolution, mais nous avons décelé l'an dernier un léger changement dans la position israélienne. Nous avons donc modifié notre vote afin d'encourager ce que nous espérons être une

année consécutive, d'un contingent canadien affecté à la Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre. Plus de 20 000 soldats canadiens ont été envoyés à Chypre et nombre d'entre eux y ont été affectés à plusieurs reprises.

En juin dernier, lors du débat au Conseil de sécurité sur le renouvellement du mandat de l'UNFICYP, le représentant canadien a mentionné deux aspects de la question chypriote susceptibles d'évoluer: la possibilité que l'aéroport international de Nicosie soit réouvert au trafic commercial et le repoussement éventuel de Varosha. Nous avons constaté avec satisfaction que les représentants des deux communautés chypriotes ont, dans leurs déclarations à l'Assemblée générale, fait état de l'éventualité d'un tel repoussement.

Monsieur le Président, dans leurs interventions, les représentants des deux communautés ont mentionné les problèmes sous-jacents que connaît leur pays. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Rolands a, à juste titre, évoqué l'intervention militaire turque de 1974 et les souffrances qu'elle a entraînées. Sous ce rapport, la question des "personnes disparues" préoccupe grandement la délégation du Canada et, en fait, tout le peuple canadien. À son tour, M. Denkash a fort pertinemment fait état de la situation désespérée que connaît Chypre avant 1974 et l'intervention turque. Ces deux points de vue divergents mais complémentaires illustrent encore une fois la nécessité de reprendre, selon les mots de M. Rolands, des négociations intercommunautaires valables. Le communiqué publié conjointement par feu l'archevêque Makarios et M. Denkash en février 1977, et notamment les quatre principes qu'il contient, ont jeté les bases de tels pourparlers. Dans ce contexte, nous avons noté avec satisfaction que MM. Denkash et Michaelides conviennent que ces principes arrêtés en 1977 peuvent toujours servir de cadre pour une reprise des négociations intercommunautaires. Nous reconnaissons également que ces négociations devront se fonder, du moins implicitement, sur une reconnaissance réciproque des réalités chypriotes. Il faudra notamment que la communauté chypriote-turque montre de la souplesse sur la question territoriale. Il faudra également que les chypriotes grecs satisfassent certaines demandes essentielles de la communauté chypriote-turque en ce qui concerne les arrangements constitutionnels. Nous avons été encouragés d'entendre les représentants des deux communautés réaffirmer leur engagement aux principes de la souveraineté, de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité territoriale applicables à la République de Chypre.

Les porte-parole du Canada aux Nations Unies n'ont jamais cessé de répéter que le processus de maintien de la paix à Chypre, auquel le Canada participe, devait être accompagné d'efforts en vue d'instaurer la paix. La présence du Canada au sein de l'UNFICYP nous amène d'ailleurs à rechercher des garanties à cet égard. Nous voulons que les actions des parties en cause constituent le garant de la recherche active d'une solution mutuellement acceptable. Il nous semble raisonnable d'attendre des parties qu'elles aient leurs efforts sur la recherche d'un règlement qui permettrait à la Force de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies de quitter Chypre plutôt que de maintenir le statu quo. Nous avons fait connaître notre point de vue sur les problèmes financiers de cette opération et je n'ai pas l'intention de le répéter ici. Je dirai simplement que le gouvernement du Canada ne peut envisager une présence indéfinie de la Force de maintien de la paix à Chypre. Il nous est de plus en plus difficile de faire accepter par l'opinion publique du Canada une participation canadienne aux opérations de maintien de la paix lorsque celles-ci ne semblent pas devoir contribuer au processus de pacification.

toute opération de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies et améliorerait son efficacité sur le terrain. Parmi les modes de formation que nous avons à l'esprit, mentionnons les cours spéciaux sur les opérations de maintien de la paix et les missions d'observation des Nations Unies qui viendraient couronner les programmes nationaux de formation militaire; le partage des expériences acquises en matière de maintien de la paix en vue de préparer éventuellement un ensemble de normes internationalement reconnues ainsi qu'un manuel unique de formation pour les affectations au sein des opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies; la formation préalable des officiers désignés pour remplir des fonctions de commandement ou d'état-major sous les auspices ou la coordination des Nations Unies; et la tenue de colloques régionaux et internationaux sur le maintien de la paix.

Le Canada tient à ce que les opérations de maintien de la paix continuent à favoriser la paix et la sécurité internationale. Nous avons bien l'intention de continuer à participer activement aux travaux du Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix au cours de l'année qui vient, et nous sommes d'avis que l'adoption de ce projet de résolution par l'Assemblée générale encouragera le Comité à poursuivre ses efforts avec une ardeur et un dévouement renouvelés. Nous croyons que les mesures pratiques et les principes directeurs devront recevoir la même priorité de la part du Comité spécial et de son groupe de travail. Ce sont là deux éléments importants si on veut assurer l'efficacité des opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU. En cette période où le maintien de la paix défraye les manchettes, l'Organisation des Nations Unies doit faire un effort spécial pour résoudre nombre des problèmes qui, autrefois, ont rendu difficile la mise sur pied de ses opérations de maintien de la paix.

3. CHYPRE

L'ambassadeur William H. Barton, représentant permanent du Canada aux Nations Unies, a tracé la position du Canada quant à la question de Chypre. Dans sa déclaration en Plénière à l'Assemblée générale le 9 novembre 1977, il a abordé l'intérêt constant que porte le Secrétaire général aux problèmes de Chypre et à la participation importante du Canada à la Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre (UNFICYP). En faisant allusion à la visite du Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures en Grèce, à Chypre et en Turquie ainsi qu'aux entretiens à Ottawa entre M. Jamieson et M. Okcun, ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Turquie, l'ambassadeur Barton a exprimé le désir d'une reprise prochaine des négociations par l'intermédiaire des bons offices du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies. Voici la déclaration de l'ambassadeur Barton sur la question de Chypre.

La délégation du Canada, bien que parfois découragée par l'apparente irréductibilité des problèmes chypriotes, a été du moins encouragée par le fait que les deux parties semblent convenir que les Nations Unies peuvent jouer un rôle utile dans la recherche d'un règlement. Sous ce rapport, nous avons noté que le Secrétaire général continue de s'intéresser de près aux problèmes de Chypre. L'intérêt que le Canada porte à la question chypriote découle en partie de son intérêt pour le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité dans l'ensemble de la Méditerranée orientale. L'appartenance de Chypre au Commonwealth ajoute évidemment à notre préoccupation face à la situation qu'elle connaît. Toutefois, notre principal souci reste la présence dans l'île, pour une quinzième

Le Comité des 33 n'a toujours pas réussi à s'entendre sur les rôles respectifs du Conseil de sécurité et du Secrétaire général en ce qui concerne le commandement, le contrôle et la supervision des opérations de maintien de la paix. Même s'il ne fait aucun doute que le Conseil de sécurité a la responsabilité première de mettre sur pied des opérations de maintien de la paix, nous n'en croyons pas moins que le Secrétaire général doit être expressément habilité à diriger les opérations courantes de toute force de maintien de la paix et ce, pour que l'Organisation puisse répondre adéquatement et rapidement aux problèmes urgents et imprévus qui ne manquent pas de surgir au cours d'une opération. Il devrait également incomber au Secrétaire général de nommer le commandant de la Force, puisqu'il est le mieux placé pour choisir un commandant qualifié qui soit acceptable aux parties intéressées et au Conseil de sécurité.

Le nombre des pays qui participent aux opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU est resté relativement restreint. Dix-neuf États seulement ont participé à au moins deux grandes opérations de maintien de la paix. Nous sommes heureux de noter que le "Club du maintien de la paix" compte cette année un nouveau membre puisque le gouvernement de Fidji a décidé de fournir un contingent à la FINUL. Nous encourageons les autres membres à songer sérieusement à leur participation éventuelle à des opérations de maintien de la paix.

La question du financement des opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU continue de préoccuper sérieusement le gouvernement du Canada. Certaines forces accumulent des déficits qui poseront bientôt de sérieux problèmes budgétaires à l'Organisation. Les dépenses imputables aux opérations de maintien de la paix devraient être supportées par les États membres conformément au paragraphe 2 de l'article 17 de la Charte. Les barèmes spéciaux de quote-parts utilisés pour la FVNU II, la FNUOD et la FINUL semblent être généralement acceptables à l'ensemble des membres de l'Organisation. Nous incitons tous ceux qui ont jusqu'ici refusé d'acquiescer en tout ou en partie leurs contributions de le faire sans tarder. L'utilisation d'une méthode sélective de contribution à des activités de l'ONU devant être financées par des quote-parts ne peut que créer un précédent fâcheux dont d'autres États membres peuvent se prévaloir dans d'autres secteurs du système des Nations Unies.

Le Canada se préoccupe également des mesures pratiques liées à la mise sur pied des opérations de maintien de la paix. Nous fondant sur notre expérience étendue de ces opérations, nous sommes d'avis qu'on pourrait procéder à un grand nombre d'améliorations qui permettraient à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et aux États membres d'être mieux préparés à envoyer des forces sur le terrain. On n'aurait pas besoin, pour ce faire, d'attendre que le Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix ait convenu de principes directeurs concernant les missions de maintien de la paix. Nous sommes heureux de noter que le projet de résolution présenté à cette Commission contient un certain nombre de telles mesures pratiques. La délégation du Canada est heureuse de rejoindre les rangs des coparrains de ce projet de résolution, préparé grâce à l'initiative des membres de la Communauté européenne. Même s'il s'agit en fait d'une formule de compromis, nous croyons quand même que le texte contient nombre d'éléments valables. Ce projet de résolution fait en outre explicitement mention de la formation au maintien de la paix que ma délégation appuie sans ambage. C'est la première fois qu'un tel élément apparaît dans un projet de résolution de l'Assemblée générale, et le Canada s'en réjouit. Nous croyons que la formation au maintien de la paix aurait un effet salutaire sur la mise en oeuvre de

Le 30 novembre 1978 le représentant du Canada, M. Maurice Dupras, député, a fait une déclaration au nom du Canada à la Commission politique spéciale de l'Assemblée générale sur "l'étude d'ensemble de toute la question des opérations de maintien de la paix sous ses aspects." Il a parlé du travail du Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix et des processus de "pacification" et de maintien de la paix. M. Dupras a également discuté du nombre relativement restreint de pays du "Club du maintien de la paix", de la question du financement, des autres mesures pratiques afin d'améliorer les opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies et d'un projet de résolution appuyé par le Canada. Voici donc la déclaration de M. Maurice Dupras sur la question du maintien de la paix.

Les opérations de maintien de la paix ont utilement contribué au mandat qu'a l'Organisation de maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationale. Depuis 1956, quand fut créée la première force de maintien de la paix de l'ONU, la présence des casques bleus a permis de réduire les tensions en temps de crise et, partant, d'instaurer un climat favorable à un règlement négocié des conflits. Trois nouvelles forces de maintien de la paix ont été envoyées en mission depuis 1973. En mars 1978, le Conseil de sécurité créait la Force intermédiaire des Nations Unies au Liban. En septembre, il autorisait la création d'un Groupe d'assistance des Nations Unies pour la période de transition en Namibie. D'autres opérations de maintien de la paix et missions d'observation de l'ONU se poursuivent au Moyen-Orient, à Chypre et ailleurs. Malgré ces manifestations de l'importance qu'ont toujours les opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU, des divergences politiques continuent d'empêcher l'organisation de tirer le meilleur profit de l'expérience acquise en ce domaine. Le Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix poursuit sa recherche de grands principes devant régir la création, le commandement, le contrôle et le financement des missions de maintien de la paix. Les aspects pratiques du maintien de la paix font toujours l'objet de discussions. Toutefois, le Comité n'a fait que peu de progrès dans ce dossier au cours de l'an dernier. Cette situation persiste et les forces onusiennes sont toujours créées selon les besoins du moment, ce qui n'est évidemment pas une solution satisfaisante.

Les événements survenus l'an dernier tendent à confirmer les leçons que le Canada a tirées de sa participation aux opérations de maintien de la paix. Premièrement, les processus de maintien de la paix et de "pacification" doivent être menés parallèlement si l'on espère trouver une solution négociée. Il faudrait autant que possible que toute nouvelle force créée par le Conseil de sécurité reçoive un mandat d'une durée limitée et qu'on envisage des moyens de régler le différend. La simple présence de l'UNFICYP à Chypre n'a pas suffi pour régler les problèmes de cette île. Il faut que reprennent les négociations interrommées l'an dernier sous les auspices de l'ONU. Au Moyen-Orient par contre, les accords de Camp David entre l'Égypte et Israël semblent avoir fait progresser le processus de "pacification" qu'a sans aucun doute facilité la présence de la FNU dans la péninsule du Sinaï. Il faut qu'une mission de maintien de la paix soit couronnée de succès, il faut absolument que toutes les parties en cause acceptent la présence de la Force et respectent le cessez-le-feu. Il suffit à cet égard de se rappeler ce qui s'est passé au Sud-Liban depuis la création de la FINUL. Malgré les réalisations de la Force à ce jour, nous ne pouvons faire abstraction des difficultés qu'elle a éprouvées à remplir intégralement son mandat. Si l'on veut que la FINUL soit un succès complet, il faudra l'entière coopération et le plein appui de toutes les parties dans la région.

s'appliqueraient tout particulièrement aux Etats nucléaires. Les modalités de vérification, renforcées par des garanties intégrales, assureraient que toutes les parties à ce traité assumeraient essentiellement les mêmes obligations que celles acceptées par les Etats non nucléaires parties au TNP. Vu notamment l'intérêt nouveau que l'Assemblée porte à ce sujet, il conviendrait donc, de l'avis du Canada, que le Comité du désarmement entreprenne sous peu l'examen de cette question.

Les deux autres éléments de la "stratégie de l'asphyxie" seraient constitués d'accords destinés à mettre un terme aux essais en vol de tous les nouveaux vecteurs stratégiques et à limiter, puis à progressivement réduire, les dépenses militaires consacrées à tous les nouveaux systèmes d'armes nucléaires stratégiques, lesquels seraient assujettis aux méthodes de vérification appropriées. Même si à l'heure actuelle il peut être prématuré de prendre des mesures concrètes pour mettre en oeuvre toute la stratégie, ces éléments peuvent et devraient être étudiés, soit isolément, soit dans le cadre d'une démarche concertée. La Session extraordinaire a déjà commandé une étude sensiblement analogue sur le désarmement et la sécurité internationale. Nous espérons vivement pouvoir disposer des recommandations du Conseil consultatif du Secrétaire général au sujet d'un Programme d'études des Nations Unies. Nous sommes portés à croire qu'une partie de ce programme pourrait comprendre la proposition constructive de la Suède en faveur d'une étude des systèmes d'armes nucléaires, laquelle donnerait une occasion supplémentaire d'examiner le genre de démarche que le Canada propose.

Il ne fait pas de doute que des réductions équilibrées des dépenses militaires dans un contexte bilatéral, régional ou même mondial pourraient aussi présenter des avantages considérables. La mise en place d'un système normalisé de présentation pourrait permettre de prendre des mesures destinées à réduire les dépenses militaires. Nous devrions étudier la possibilité de tenir des discussions multilatérales sur la détermination des domaines de dépenses militaires où l'on pourrait opérer des réductions, et sur la manière d'y parvenir. Si l'on veut progresser, il faudra être davantage disposé à communiquer des renseignements et à reconnaître la nécessité de vérifications adéquates. Je suis d'égout de constater que l'appui en faveur d'une étude pilote sur un système normalisé de présentation se limite jusqu'ici à un très petit nombre de pays. Sans la participation de pays appartenant à différents groupes géopolitiques, dont tous les Etats dotés de l'arme nucléaire, toute expérience de ce genre n'aura qu'une valeur limitée.

Depuis de nombreuses années, l'Assemblée donne une haute priorité à la négociation d'un traité sur les armes chimiques. D'intensives discussions bilatérales ont actuellement lieu entre l'URSS et les Etats-Unis afin de présenter, comme il avait été demandé, un projet conjoint au Comité du désarmement. Nous croyons savoir que les choses vont bon train, mais qu'il faudra peut-être attendre quelque temps avant que les éléments clés d'un traité ne puissent être déposés au Comité du désarmement par les deux coparrains. Nous espérons vivement que, lors de sa réunion, le Comité entreprendra des travaux dans les domaines où il existe déjà de grands terrains d'entente, comme la portée du futur traité, peu importe que les négociations bilatérales soient terminées ou non. Il est évident qu'il reste considérablement de travail à accomplir avant de pouvoir entreprendre la négociation d'un traité multilatéral sur les armes chimiques. Nous estimons que le Comité du désarmement pourrait utilement s'attaquer à cette tâche en créant un groupe de travail qui pourrait, par exemple, s'occuper de la définition des agents chimiques.

Je voudrais ici réitérer les vues du gouvernement du Canada sur l'interdiction globale des essais, le premier des quatre points exposés par le Premier ministre dans sa "stratégie de l'asphyxie" afin d'arrêter la dynamique de la course aux armements nucléaires.

- Une interdiction des essais nucléaires par voie de traité, assortie d'une vérification concrète destinée à donner des assurances valables de son observation, constituerait une entrave qualitative supplémentaire au développement des armes nucléaires et, partant, aurait une incidence sur la prolifération verticale.

- Sous forme de traité multilatéral auquel pourraient adhérer les États dotés ou non de l'arme nucléaire, pareille interdiction servirait aussi à renforcer le régime international destiné à empêcher la prolifération horizontale.

- Le Canada estime qu'il convient de traiter d'urgence la question de l'interdiction globale des essais, comme le stipule le paragraphe 51 du document final de la Session extraordinaire. Nous croyons savoir que les négociations actuellement en cours entre les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni et l'URSS sont sur le point d'aboutir et nous espérons vivement que l'on pourra en étudier les résultats dans les meilleurs délais au sein du Comité du désarmement.

A de nombreuses occasions, et tout récemment lors de la dixième Session extraordinaire, le Canada et beaucoup d'autres États ont souligné le fait qu'une entente sur l'arrêt de la production de matières fissiles à des fins d'armement contribuerait également à mettre un terme à la course aux armes nucléaires. Nous saluons la reconnaissance explicite de cette optique dans le paragraphe 50 du document final. De toute évidence, comme c'est le cas pour de nombreuses autres mesures dans le domaine du désarmement, l'utilité d'un accord de ce genre dépendrait de l'application de mesures de vérification efficaces, ce qui devrait comprendre ici l'acceptation de garanties intégrales ou globales régies par l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) ou l'adoption d'un système équivalent.

L'objectif, selon nous, devrait être l'élaboration par le Comité du désarmement d'un traité multilatéral, auquel pourraient adhérer les pays dotés ou non de l'arme nucléaire, interdisant la production de matières fissiles pour la fabrication d'armes nucléaires ou de tout autre dispositif explosif nucléaire produit dans le cadre de l'utilisation pacifique de l'énergie nucléaire. Cette mesure permettrait de focaliser en un seul et même instrument les dimensions verticales et horizontales de la prolifération des armes nucléaires. Toutefois, avant d'engager à fond les négociations au stade multilatéral, il serait utile que les deux grandes puissances nucléaires et les autres États nucléaires désireux de participer au processus, se penchent sur les aspects relatifs à l'arrêt de la production de matières fissiles à des fins d'armement et notamment sur les problèmes de vérification qui

B. QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE ET DE SECURITE

1. DESARMEMENT

Dans une allocution prononcée au nom du Canada le 21 novembre 1978 devant la Première Commission de l'Assemblée générale, M. G.A.H. Pearson, Conseiller pour le désarmement et le contrôle des armements, a fait de brèves observations sur les points suivants: les pourparlers sur la limitation des armes stratégiques (SALT), l'interdiction globale des essais nucléaires, l'arrêt de la production de matières fissiles, l'étude des questions relatives au désarmement, la réduction des dépenses militaires et les armes chimiques. Il a également évoqué la "stratégie de l'asphyxie" exposée par le Premier ministre Trudeau lors de la Session extraordinaire consacrée au désarmement. Voici des extraits de la déclaration de M. Pearson sur ces questions.

Désireux d'empêcher la guerre et de maintenir la stabilité internationale, la majorité des membres des Nations Unies estiment qu'ils doivent être prêts à se défendre, soit isolément, soit collectivement. C'est dire qu'à moins d'un renversement des attitudes chez les peuples et les gouvernements, qu'il est irréaliste d'espérer dans un proche avenir, l'objectif d'un désarmement général et complet ne pourra que continuer de nous sembler hors de portée.

Ces trois dernières décennies, la dissuasion a certes été un facteur important, peut-être déterminant, qui a permis d'éviter une guerre planétaire, mais rien ne garantit qu'elle continuera indéfiniment à assurer la stabilité si la course aux armements nucléaires persiste. L'apparition de nouveaux systèmes d'armes plus précis et plus efficaces risque de rompre l'équilibre actuel ou encore de faire croire et craindre que tel sera le cas. De même, la prolifération des armes nucléaires pourrait augmenter le risque de guerre par accident ou par erreur de calcul et rendre plus difficile l'application et la vérification des accords de contrôle des armements. Par ailleurs, les armes nouvelles peuvent saper la viabilité des traités actuels sur le contrôle des armements et ébranler la confiance dont ils jouissent. La production et le développement incontrôlés d'armes nucléaires présentent le réel danger que les facteurs qui militent contre le recours aux armes nucléaires risquent de perdre de leur vigueur dans un avenir prochain.

Nous estimons qu'il ne peut y avoir de solution à long terme aux problèmes de la prolifération horizontale si les deux grandes puissances nucléaires ne réussissent pas à stopper et à faire régresser la prolifération verticale, comme elles s'y sont engagées aux termes de l'article VI du Traité de non-prolifération (TNP). Même à court terme, si les Etats-Unis et l'URSS ne parviennent pas à s'entendre pour brider leurs systèmes d'armes nucléaires stratégiques, leur échec pourrait compromettre sérieusement le renforcement du régime de non-prolifération. Nous savons que les deux grandes puissances dotées de l'arme nucléaire sont conscientes de ces réalités, sans quoi elles ne se seraient pas engagées à chercher un terrain d'entente dans le cadre des SALT II. Nous reconnaissons que les négociations SALT portent sur les intérêts primordiaux des Etats-Unis, de l'URSS et de leurs alliés au chapitre de la sécurité et que, dans ce contexte, les progrès ne peuvent être faciles à réaliser. Cependant, nous devons avouer que le rythme de ces négociations nous semble très lent si l'on songe à l'intérêt vital que nous portons tous à leur développement. Le Canada formule à nouveau l'espoir sincère que les pourparlers aboutiront sous peu à un accord.

La Conférence, peu importe les efforts ou les frustrations qui l'accompagnent encore les négociations, d'autant plus que beaucoup a déjà été accompli et que le port est en vue.

Le Canada est toutefois d'avis que la Conférence devrait se terminer le plus tôt possible. Certes, l'établissement arbitraire d'une échéance peut retarder plutôt qu'accélérer les travaux, mais nous croyons que les négociations devraient se terminer dans le courant de 1979 en vue de l'adoption, nous l'espérons, d'un projet de traité au début de 1980. Le Canada accordera son plein appui à la poursuite de cet objectif.

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Le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures a terminé son discours en rappelant le défi que doivent relever les Etats membres des Nations Unies pour assurer l'efficacité du travail de l'organisation comme suit:

Malgré ses faiblesses et ses échecs, l'Organisation des Nations Unies nous lie à certains principes fondamentaux qui sont toujours aussi valables qu'en 1945; elle atteste depuis un tiers de siècle les efforts de chaque nation pour mieux assurer la sécurité, la prospérité et la dignité de toute l'humanité.

Il faut maintenant nous assurer que le système des Nations Unies sait s'adapter à la complexité mouvante du présent. Il ne faut pas que nos principes de base soient entravés par la bureaucratie. Cette institution doit aller au-devant des problèmes contemporains, non s'en éloigner. J'ai confiance que nous saurons relever le défi.

Il n'existe pas de remède rapide ou facile aux problèmes économiques nationaux ou internationaux contemporains, notamment ceux des pays les plus pauvres du monde; toutefois, certaines nécessités s'imposent nettement. Nous devons favoriser la croissance de façon que l'économie internationale puisse mieux répondre aux aspirations d'un monde en développement qui réclame un ordre économique plus équitable. Nous devons résister aux pressions visant l'instauration d'un protectionnisme voué à l'échec. Nous ne devons ménager aucun effort pour assurer le succès des négociations commerciales multilatérales, y compris l'obtention d'avantages susceptibles de satisfaire aussi bien les pays en développement que les grandes puissances commerciales.

Monsieur le Président, il faut que cette Assemblée procède à des échanges francs et ouverts sur l'économie mondiale. Mais si nous voulons que l'Assemblée générale joue le rôle qui lui revient dans le processus d'étalaboration de solutions équitables à ces problèmes, il faut clarifier le mandat du comité plénier établi dans le cadre de la résolution 32/174 et lui donner les moyens d'agir.

Le dialogue touchant les questions économiques se poursuit sur nombre de fronts. Certains progrès sont apparents. Les négociations relatives à une nouvelle convention sur l'aide alimentaire ont avancé. Le Canada participera de façon active et positive à la reprise des négociations sur un fonds commun pour les produits de base, au regard desquelles il est également optimiste. Par ailleurs, l'année 1979 promet d'être très exigeante: mentionnons la CNUCED V à Manille, la Conférence mondiale sur la science et la technologie au service du développement qui se tiendra à Vienne, ainsi que la nécessité d'élaborer une nouvelle stratégie du développement international pour les années 80 et au-delà. Le Canada s'intéresse vivement à chacun de ces événements. La présente session de l'Assemblée générale devrait contribuer à leur préparation ainsi qu'à celle d'autres événements comme le projet de conférence mondiale sur les sources d'énergie renouvelables. J'invite les délégations à s'efforcer de maintenir le consensus pendant ce processus. La négociation de ces questions avance parfois beaucoup trop lentement, mais nous devons persister dans l'effort jusqu'à ce que nous réussissions.

Droit de la mer

La troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer a marqué depuis un an d'importants progrès en vue de l'adoption d'un traité global des océans. Je suis particulièrement encouragé par les améliorations apportées au Texte de négociation composite officiels ce qui concerne la prévention et le contrôle de la pollution par les navires. Le nouveau texte, s'il ne satisfait pas pleinement les objectifs du Canada dans ce domaine, reflète toutefois une meilleure prise de conscience internationale de la nécessité d'un partage plus équitable des droits et devoirs des Etats côtiers et du pavillon. L'accord sur la plupart des principaux éléments d'un traité global des océans est maintenant acquis à toutes fins utiles. Il reste à s'entendre sur les questions vraiment difficiles concernant surtout un système international d'exploitation des grands fonds marins et la transformation du concept de patrimoine commun en un régime équitable qui puisse gouverner cette exploitation. Notre objectif - sans précéder dans les annales des institutions internationales - vise la création d'une autorité internationale qui aurait à la fois des pouvoirs réglementaires et un rôle à jouer dans l'exploitation même des richesses naturelles. Une telle entreprise aurait une influence profonde et globale sur le nouvel ordre économique. Nous ne pouvons laisser échouer

et qui sont habituellement fondées sur le principe d'une répartition géographique équitable, il doit avoir le plus de latitude possible quant à la sélection des ressources requises. La pénurie de personnel disponible dans le secteur des communications et du soutien logistique est particulièrement déplorable. Il est plus que temps, Monsieur le Président, que le Comité spécial des opérations de maintien de la paix présente des recommandations fermes sur ces questions.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai eu l'occasion cette année d'évaluer la situation chypriote sur place. J'en suis venu à la conclusion que les parties au conflit devraient pouvoir régler leurs différends par la négociation.

Le Canada est directement intéressé à la solution du problème chypriote. Les contingents canadiens rattachés à la Force des Nations Unies sont à Chypre depuis quatorze ans et certains de nos soldats en sont maintenant à leur quatrième affectation. Nombre de Canadiens commencent à croire que cette présence permanente de la Force retarde davantage qu'elle ne favorise la recherche d'une solution permanente.

L'île de Chypre, en tant qu'Etat indépendant et membre souverain de la communauté internationale, a connu une histoire troublée. Je crois qu'il ne servirait à rien de vouloir identifier les responsables des événements du passé. La Communauté internationale est toutefois en droit de s'attendre du peuple chypriote qu'il mette à profit les ressources et le dynamisme qu'il partage avec ses voisins méditerranéens, ainsi que la bonne volonté qui subsiste, pour préparer un nouveau programme national qui comportera des garanties raisonnablement acceptables par toutes les parties intéressées. L'héritage du passé ne facilitera pas les choses et, à mon avis, l'entreprise pourra même se révéler impossible si des négociations suivies ne sont pas instaurées entre les deux communautés. Sans un dialogue permanent, les rapprochements qui se dessinent de temps à autre resteront sans lendemain. Le Secrétaire général a offert ses bons offices aux parties et je les incite à en tirer rapidement et pleinement avantage.

Questions économiques et sociales

Nous nous attendons également à ce que cette Assemblée, par ses délibérations, influence sur l'évolution des questions économiques et sociales qui sont vitales au bien-être de nos populations. La paix et la sécurité demeureront des objectifs inatteignables tant qu'on n'accordera pas une attention suffisante aux besoins économiques et sociaux fondamentaux de l'humanité.

Les pays industrialisés jouent un rôle prépondérant dans les activités économiques internationales, et leurs politiques ont par conséquent une influence sensible sur la santé de l'économie mondiale. Or nos économies ne sont pas des plus solides depuis quelque temps. Les dirigeants des sept grands pays industrialisés se sont réunis il y a un peu plus de deux mois pour s'entendre sur des mesures à prendre, individuellement et collectivement, pour améliorer cette performance. Le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé depuis une série de mesures visant à stimuler la croissance de l'économie canadienne. Ces efforts pour assainir notre économie ne témoignent pas pour autant d'une approche introspective. Au contraire, mon gouvernement reste convaincu qu'un système d'échanges internationaux véritablement libres est le cadre le plus propice à une croissance économique générale soutenue. Il est également convaincu que les problèmes du monde industrialisé ont les meilleures chances de se régler par des moyens qui avantagent tous les pays, industrialisés ou en développement.

Ensuite, M. Jamieson a passé en revue le désarmement, le maintien de la paix et la pacification, les questions économiques et sociales ainsi que le droit de la mer. Voici des extraits de la déclaration de M. Jamieson sur ces sujets.

Désarmement

La Session extraordinaire consacrée au désarmement a adopté par consensus un programme d'action qui pose clairement les questions à négocier en priorité, dont la recherche active de mesures visant à freiner la course aux armements nucléaires, la signature d'un traité d'interdiction des essais nucléaires et la négociation d'un accord efficace concernant l'utilisation des armes chimiques. Les propositions présentées par le Premier ministre du Canada et d'autres chefs de gouvernement font actuellement l'objet de discussions dans nombre de capitales. Dans son document final, la Session a fait le point sur les perspectives, les aspirations et les objectifs en matière de limitation et de réduction des armements.

Maintien de la paix et la pacification

Au fil des ans le Canada s'est joint à de nombreux autres pays pour appuyer les missions de maintien de la paix de l'ONU. Nous avons fourni du personnel militaire ou autre à chaque force de maintien de la paix, y compris la Force intérimaire des Nations Unies au Liban (FINUL) créée en mars dernier.

Le Conseil a agi promptement et sagement en décidant d'envoyer une force des Nations Unies au Sud-Liban déchiré par la guerre. La structure et les activités de la FINUL témoignent non seulement de l'habile diplomatie du Secrétaire général et de son personnel, mais également de la volonté des Etats membres de la plupart des régions du monde de participer aux opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies. Nous ne pouvons toutefois oublier que la FINUL a éprouvé certaines difficultés à exécuter son mandat et que le gouvernement libanais n'est pas encore parvenu à restaurer pleinement sa souveraineté.

Le succès de la Force dépendra de la magnanimité et de la bonne volonté de toutes les parties en cause ainsi que de la mesure dans laquelle les actuels et éventuels contributeurs pourront planifier leur participation.

Les Etats qui contribuent des contingents aux forces de maintien de la paix sont inévitablement influencés par leur perception de la coopération accordée à leurs troupes ainsi que par le genre d'appui que ces opérations reçoivent des autres membres de l'ONU, et notamment des membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité. Je constate d'ailleurs à regret que deux d'entre eux ont fait part de leur intention de ne pas contribuer financièrement à la FINUL.

Le Canada est particulièrement sensible à la nécessité pour l'ONU d'améliorer sa planification préalable en ce qui concerne le maintien de la paix. Seul un réengagement sensible de nos propres besoins nous a permis de fournir du personnel spécialisé à la FINUL, et pour six mois seulement. J'incite tous les Etats membres à étudier à nouveau la possibilité d'affecter du personnel, des services et de l'équipement à cette force d'urgence. Si l'on veut que le Secrétaire général soit en mesure de mener à bien les tâches que lui confie le Conseil de sécurité

La résolution 32/8 adoptée par consensus lors de la dernière session de l'Assemblée générale traitait d'un aspect spécifique du terrorisme, à savoir la piraterie aérienne, et demandait aux gouvernements de prendre des mesures individuelles et collectives pour assurer la sécurité de l'aviation civile. Cette résolution a été fortement appuyée par la délégation du Canada et nous avons continué à insister sur la nécessité de nouvelles mesures internationales pour combattre le terrorisme sous toutes ses formes. La déclaration sur la piraterie aérienne, qui a été élaborée et présentée sur l'initiative du sommet de Bonn en juillet, met clairement en relief la détermination du Canada de prendre des dispositions pour régler ce problème. La déclaration engage les sept pays qui refusent d'extrader ou de traduire en justice les pirates aériens qui relèvent de leur juridiction.

Les participants au sommet de Bonn ont prié instamment les autres gouvernements de se rallier à cet engagement. Nombre de gouvernements ont manifesté leur intention de ce faire et nous incitons tous les autres membres de la communauté internationale à leur emboîter le pas.

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Le Canada a été élu au Conseil de sécurité pour la quatrième fois en 1977-78. Il avait précédemment siégé au Conseil en 1948-49, en 1958-59 et en 1967-68. Le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures a poursuivi son discours en déplorant l'inertie du Conseil de sécurité. Il a suggéré des réunions ministérielles périodiques et une révision de la représentation au Conseil. Voici ce que M. Jamieson a déclaré.

Conseil de sécurité

Le Conseil est trop passif. Il ferme trop souvent les yeux sur des situations qui constituent nettement une menace à la paix et à la sécurité internationales et il continue à passer outre le fait qu'il doit, aux termes du mandat que lui confie la Charte, s'efforcer d'éloigner ces menaces avant qu'elles ne se concrétisent. Dans mon allocution devant cette Assemblée l'an dernier, j'exprimais la conviction que des échanges informels et privés entre les dirigeants représentés au Conseil aideraient ce dernier à s'acquitter de ses responsabilités. Nous avons découvert, je dois l'avouer, que certains de nos collègues ne partageaient pas cet avis. Toutefois, je suis toujours convaincu de la valeur qu'auraient des réunions ministérielles périodiques qui fourniraient l'orientation politique de haut niveau essentielle au Conseil pour lui permettre d'oeuvrer au maintien ou au rétablissement de la paix. Monsieur le Président, j'incite les membres du Conseil, actuels et futurs, qui partagent ce point de vue à poursuivre leurs efforts en vue d'inciter le Conseil à remplir le rôle qui lui est réservé dans la Charte.

Je crois d'autre part qu'il est opportun de nous pencher encore une fois sur la représentation au Conseil. L'ONU comprenait 118 membres en 1965 lorsque le Conseil est passé de 11 à 15 membres. Cette année, 150 pays sont représentés ici. Nombre d'Etats qui pourraient apporter une contribution positive à ces travaux du Conseil doivent attendre une génération avant d'espérer y siéger.

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personne. Il a demandé aux Nations Unies d'étudier la situation en ce qui concerne les droits de l'homme au Kampuchea démocratique et encouragé tous les Etats à alléger la condition des réfugiés indochinois. Au chapitre des droits de la personne, il a également discuté du terrorisme international et de la Déclaration de Bonn sur la piraterie aérienne. Voici la déclaration de M. Jamieson sur la question des droits de la personne.

Droits de la personne

Une troisième question exige une attention et une action immédiates: c'est le peu de progrès réalisés par l'ONU en ce qui concerne la protection des droits de la personne de par le monde. Mentionnons à cet égard la tragique situation qui règne au Kampuchea démocratique. Le 8 septembre, le gouvernement du Canada remettait à la Commission des droits de l'homme un rapport détaillé s'appuyant sur une série de déclarations faites volontairement à nos représentants par des réfugiés du Kampuchea, dont bon nombre avaient récemment quitté leur pays. Les témoignages des réfugiés confirment les allégations émanant d'autres sources et selon lesquelles le gouvernement du Kampuchea démocratique a systématiquement violé les droits fondamentaux de ses citoyens et poursuit sa répression et ses exécutions. Cette situation appelle le genre de participation efficace que notre Organisation devrait être en mesure de fournir.

Un choix s'impose ici comme ailleurs. La question des droits de la personne revêt des dimensions internationales. Comme nous le rappelle le Secrétaire général, "il est légitime que la communauté mondiale se soucie de voir partout reconnaître et magnifier la valeur et la dignité de chaque être humain". L'importance nouvelle que prennent les droits de la personne est une composante de l'évolution naturelle de tout système international. Comme tant d'autres questions, elle ne peut plus se limiter aux frontières nationales. Il ne s'agit pas de dicter aux gouvernements la façon de modeler leurs systèmes politiques ou économiques, mais simplement de les obliger à respecter le minimum de décence et de civilité auquel ils se sont engagés.

La question des droits de la personne ne s'estompiera pas d'elle-même. L'ONU doit s'attaquer de front au problème, sinon nous nous verrons contraints de chercher ailleurs un consensus international tolérable. Pour le gouvernement du Canada, le choix ne fait pas de doute. Nous estimons que l'ONU est une tribune idéale lorsqu'il s'agit de se prononcer objectivement, rationnellement et impartialement sur les allégations de violation des droits de la personne. Un rôle plus actif et efficace de l'ONU dans ce secteur lui attirera une plus grande confiance et incitera moins les gouvernements à se sentir obligés de réclamer des mesures contre d'autres Etats en réaction à des violations flagrantes et persistantes à ce chapitre.

La violation des droits de la personne revêt de nombreuses formes, dont la plus exécrable est sans doute le terrorisme international. Des innocents sont menacés tandis que les coupables sont souvent impunis ou même jamais inculpés. Le terrorisme tient notre société en otage et menace les gouvernements de toutes les régions du monde. Il ne faut pas qu'il y ait confusion entre la fin et les moyens. Le terrorisme dépasse l'opposition légitime; il avilit toute cause qu'il est censé servir. La communauté internationale, qui s'est engagée à éliminer la guerre comme instrument de politique, peut difficilement accepter le terrorisme comme un phénomène tolérable de la vie internationale.

M. Jamieson a aussi souligné la nécessité pour tous les gouvernements de se conformer à leurs engagements aux droits fondamentaux de la

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Nous ignorons quelle forme pourrait prendre un éventuel règlement pacifique; il pourrait notamment prévoir une participation internationale à l'exécution de ses modalités. Le Canada examinerait très attentivement toute demande d'aide en ce sens. Nous espérons également que les autres aspects du problème seront étudiés dans le contexte des résolutions adoptées par le Conseil de sécurité. Il se peut que la communauté internationale soit appelée à contribuer généreusement, et le Canada est certainement prêt à accorder toute l'aide dont il peut disposer.

Les délibérations de cette assemblée devraient favoriser la confiance entre les parties et faciliter leurs négociations. Maintenant que le processus de négociation est sérieusement engagé, il nous faut chercher à éviter les récriminations et la polémique. J'exprime par contre le vœu que tous fassent un effort pour calmer les passions, encourager les initiatives constructives dans la région et renforcer le prestige et la compétence de l'ONU en tant que mécanisme de recherche de solutions.

Le Canada a appuyé et encouragé le processus de négociation entrepris à Jérusalem. Nous avons applaudi à l'audacieuse initiative du Président Carter qui a pris sur lui de rassembler à nouveau les chefs de gouvernement d'Israël et de l'Égypte à Camp David, et nous approuvons les accords qui y ont été signés; ils sont un jalon sur la longue route qui mène à la paix, route que nos soldats surveillent depuis maintenant plus de vingt ans.

Nous avons tout lieu d'être réconfortés par les remarquables progrès enregistrés depuis un an vers une solution juste du conflit au Moyen-Orient. La visite historique du Président Sadate à Jérusalem il y a moins d'un an et l'accueil chaleureux que lui ont réservé le Premier ministre Begin et le peuple israélien ont connu leur prolongement dramatique dans les accords de Camp David. Le gouvernement du Canada a félicité les présidents Carter et Sadate et le Premier ministre Begin pour leur sens politique. Les perspectives d'une paix réelle et durable sont maintenant bien meilleures, bien qu'il reste à régler certains problèmes sérieux.

Moyen-Orient

Ensuite, le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures a parlé des récents événements au Moyen-Orient. Il a exhorté les États membres des Nations Unies à promouvoir le but de la paix au Moyen-Orient et a discuté d'une contribution possible du Canada à l'avenir. Voici la déclaration de M. Jamieson sur la question de la paix au Moyen-Orient.

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L'incertitude. La perpétuation de la guerre aurait aussi les conséquences les plus sérieuses sur la stabilité de la région dans son ensemble. Il est évident que toutes les parties au conflit doivent se rencontrer sans tarder si l'on veut obtenir un règlement pacifique sur la base du plan anglo-américain généralement accepté. Le Canada souhaite toujours le succès du plan et, le cas échéant, est disposé à offrir une aide appropriée.

En second lieu, si on fait exception d'une poignée d'éléments extrêmes, tous ceux qui sont fondés à dire qu'ils représentent une partie de la population namibienne ont clairement indiqué qu'ils acceptaient l'intervention de l'ONU dans le processus d'accession à l'indépendance. Nous ne pouvons tout simplement pas accepter qu'une nouvelle consultation ait lieu, sous quelque forme que ce soit.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes une fois de plus aux prises avec une grave situation. Notre Organisation est présentement en mesure d'amener, par des moyens pacifiques, une nouvelle nation à l'indépendance.

Nous devons demander instamment à ceux qui veulent se mettre en travers d'une aussi noble entreprise de reconsidérer leur décision. Le gouvernement sud-africain doit se rendre compte qu'il ne peut impunément aller à l'encontre de la volonté internationale, d'autant qu'il a lui-même participé de près aux longues négociations qui ont abouti au règlement proposé. Aux dirigeants namibiens, auxquels on veut faire croire qu'ils peuvent régler leurs problèmes par le biais d'une méthode électorale truquée, je ne puis dire qu'une chose: pensez à l'avenir de votre pays. Ne commettez pas d'erreurs: le gouvernement facitice que vous formerez à la suite des élections tout aussi facitices qu'envisage actuellement l'Administrateur général ne recevra la reconnaissance internationale. Il n'est pas trop tard et j'espère sincèrement que tous les intéressés reviendront sur leur décision.

Afrique du Sud

En imposant un embargo obligatoire sur les livraisons d'armes à l'Afrique du Sud en novembre 1977, le Conseil de sécurité invoquait la première fois les dispositions du chapitre VII de la Charte des Nations Unies contre un Etat membre, confirmant ainsi une politique appliquée volontairement par le Canada depuis 1963. Le recours au chapitre VII a été à juste titre considéré comme une grave décision, qui n'a été prise qu'après une étude très sérieuse du problème et une évaluation soigneuse de ses incidences. Cette décision confirme donc notre conviction selon laquelle la paix et la stabilité en Afrique australe continueront d'être menacées tant que sévira le régime de l'apartheid.

Le Canada a également appuyé l'appel lancé aux gouvernements dans la perspective d'une réévaluation de leurs relations économiques avec l'Afrique du Sud. Même si cet élément n'a été intégré à aucune résolution du Conseil de sécurité, le gouvernement du Canada a néanmoins décidé de prendre certaines mesures. Ainsi, le 19 décembre 1977, j'annonçais que le Canada mettrait progressivement fin à ses relations commerciales avec l'Afrique du Sud et qu'il préparait un code de conduite destiné à régir le comportement des sociétés canadiennes opérant en Afrique du Sud. Nos rapports avec ce pays continueront de faire l'objet d'une révision permanente.

Zimbabwe

Monsieur le Président, mon gouvernement est en outre fort préoccupé par la situation au Zimbabwe. Nous avions espéré que le plan anglo-américain et les initiatives subséquentes du Conseil de sécurité mèneraient à un accord général. La solution de rechange n'a pas réussi et ce pays est maintenant plongé plus que jamais dans le sang et

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures, l'honorable Don Jamieson, a prononcé un discours à la 33e session régulière de l'Assemblée générale, le 26 septembre 1978. Il a d'abord souligné trois questions clés internationales: les problèmes en Afrique australe, le différend au Moyen-Orient, et les violations des droits de l'homme. M. Jamieson a passé en revue les récents événements en ce qui concerne un règlement international acceptable de la question namibienne. Il a en outre encouragé le gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud et les leaders namibiens à revenir sur la décision sud-africaine de tenir unilatéralement des élections en Namibie. Il a fait mention des actions du Conseil de sécurité, et exposé la politique du Canada à l'égard de l'Afrique du Sud. M. Jamieson a également discuté de la politique du Canada en ce qui concerne la situation au Zimbabwe (Rhodésie). Voici la déclaration de M. Jamieson sur les problèmes de l'Afrique australe.

Il y a dix-huit mois, mes collègues des États-Unis, du Royaume-Uni, de la France, de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et moi-même concevions nos efforts pour obtenir un règlement international acceptable de la question namibienne. Depuis lors, des progrès considérables ont été réalisés. Des négociations difficiles et l'intervention personnelle de certains ministres des Affaires étrangères à des moments clés du processus de négociation ont montré ce qu'il est possible d'accomplir lorsque la volonté politique et la détermination de réussir sont appliquées à des problèmes apparemment insolubles. Les cinq membres occidentaux du Conseil de sécurité ont pu préparer un plan modéré, que j'ai eu le privilège de présenter à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée le 25 avril. Je pouvais alors, par la même occasion, annoncer l'acceptation du plan par l'Afrique du Sud. En juillet, la SWAPO acceptait à son tour le plan occidental et nous pouvions dès lors, avec l'entière collaboration des parties et le soutien actif des États africains de première ligne, prendre au Conseil de sécurité les premières mesures en vue de la mise en oeuvre intégrale de nos propositions. C'est donc avec beaucoup d'optimisme et de satisfaction que nous avons suivi les progrès de la Mission spéciale d'enquête dépechée en Namibie par le Secrétaire général, sous la direction de son représentant spécial, M. Martti Ahtisaari.

Quand, à partir des conclusions de la mission d'enquête, le Secrétaire général a publié son rapport et ses recommandations sur la meilleure manière de s'acquitter du mandat qui lui avait été confié par le Conseil de sécurité, nous avions tout lieu de penser que les Nations Unies disposaient enfin d'un instrument capable de mettre fin à trente années de controverse et d'amener la Namibie à l'indépendance dans des conditions acceptables pour la communauté internationale.

C'est pourquoi nous avons été scandalisés et consternés d'apprendre la semaine dernière la décision du gouvernement sud-africain de tenir unilatéralement des élections sur le territoire.

D'ailleurs, ni l'un ni l'autre des motifs invoqués par l'Afrique du Sud à ce propos n'est valable. Je tiens d'abord à déclarer de façon très catégorique que le rapport du Secrétaire général est tout à fait conforme à la proposition originale des Cinq et qu'il constitue une analyse experte des ressources humaines et financières à mettre en oeuvre pour accomplir les tâches auxquelles nos propositions font appel.

1ère PARTIE
LE CANADA À LA
XXXIII^e AGNU

A l'occasion de la journée des Nations Unies le 24 octobre 1978, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, l'honorable Don Jamieson, a souligné, dans son message au secrétaire général, M. Kurt Waldheim, l'intérêt que porte le Canada au désarmement, à la Namibie, à l'efficacité et la faculté d'adaptation des Nations Unies, aux droits de l'homme et au développement. Voici donc des extraits de la déclaration faite par l'honorable Don Jamieson dans son message au secrétaire général.

La Session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement a proclamé la semaine du 24 octobre "semaine de promotion des objectifs du désarmement". Vous nous avez d'ailleurs rappelé qu'"aucune autre instance ne saurait répondre au critère de participation universelle qu'impose la situation actuelle".

Le gouvernement et la population du Canada ont pu trouver dans les travaux accomplis par l'Organisation cette année une source de confiance et d'optimisme renouvelés et ce, en raison notamment de l'attention accordée à la question du désarmement. Nous nous réjouissons du fait que les leaders du monde et les autres participants aient profité de l'occasion pour dépasser leurs intérêts propres et oeuvrer en commun à la recherche de mesures efficaces de désarmement par la négociation et la concertation. À l'instar d'autres États membres, le Canada participera avec un espoir renouvelé à la négociation d'accords multilatéraux de désarmement selon le programme d'action approuvé par la Session extraordinaire des Nations Unies consacrée au désarmement.

Le Canada est sur le point de terminer son quatrième mandat au Conseil de sécurité. Nous nous sommes efforcés, par notre présence au sein de cet organe, d'aider les Nations Unies à régler des conflits dans plusieurs parties du monde et nous espérons tout particulièrement voir la question namibienne donner lieu à des résultats positifs. J'ai été très heureux de pouvoir vous rencontrer le 20 octobre, au nom de mes collègues occidentaux, pour vous faire rapport sur les résultats des entretiens que nous avons eus à Pretoria concernant la question de la Namibie.

Le Canada souscrit également à l'idée que vous avez exprimée dans votre rapport, selon laquelle l'ONU doit s'efforcer de "trouver de nouvelles méthodes qui s'accordent à la rapidité, à la diversité et à toute la complexité de la vie moderne". Il est important que les opérations de l'ONU soient comprises et respectées par les États membres, mais nos pratiques actuelles ne facilitent pas toujours cette compréhension. Par ailleurs, le Canada continuera à suivre de près les efforts des Nations Unies pour améliorer la situation des populations du monde et pour réduire les écarts de niveau de vie entre les pays industrialisés et les pays en développement.

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NOTE

Cette publication fournit au public un outil de référence pratique au sujet des activités et des politiques poursuivies par le Canada lors de la 33e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Il comprend des extraits d'importantes déclarations faites par des représentants du Canada et d'autres renseignements utiles sur le Canada et les Nations Unies. On peut se procurer les textes complets de ces déclarations ainsi que d'autres renseignements sur les activités et les politiques du Canada aux Nations Unies en s'adressant à la Direction des programmes d'information au Canada (FID), ministère des Affaires extérieures, Édifice Lester B. Pearson, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada KIA 0G2.

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